



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية 'الراي'

Barcelona bows out in style

BARCELONA (R) — Barcelona bade a flamboyant farewell to the biggest Olympics in history on Sunday with a Latin fiesta of flamenco, opera and dancing horses. "Thank you Spain. Thank you Catalonia. Thank you Barcelona," said International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch as he closed the games in the city of his birth. He declared the \$9 billion games "without doubt the best ever" before the Olympic flame was extinguished and the five-ringed flag passed to Atlanta for the 1996 centenary Olympic Games. More than 10,000 athletes battled for glory over 16 days in the first boycott-free games for three decades. The Commonwealth of Independent States, built on the ruins of the Soviet empire, came together for the first and last time to lead the medal table with 45 golds. Stars like pole vaulter Sergei Bubka were toppled, new heroes like 400 metre hurdler Kevin Young were born and super-Olympian Carl Lewis stole the greatest sporting show on earth with a stunning world record in the U.S. sprint relay. More than 65,000 people packed the modernist Montjuic stadium for a closing ceremony.

Iraq says Al Bakr fully operational

NICOSIA (AP) — Repairs of Gulf war damage at Iraq's offshore Al Bakr oil exporting terminal has been completed and the port is fully operational, the official Iraqi News Agency reported Sunday. The agency quoted an Oil Ministry spokesman as saying that Iraqi engineers have made the four-birth terminal "ready for export and receiving giant tankers as it was before the aggression." The offshore port, built in 1975 about 45 kilometres from the southern town of Fao, has a capacity of 1.6 million barrels a day. It was badly damaged during the 1980-88 war with Iran and only 400,000 barrels of crude a day were being exported from it by mid-1990 after repairs by an American company that cost \$140 million. During the Gulf war, the U.S.-led coalition targeted the terminal and its storage facilities on shore. INA said the recent work was done by a consortium of Iraqi companies at a cost of five million Iraqi dinars \$15 million at the official exchange rate.

Volume 17 Number 5975

AMMAN MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 1992, SAFR 10, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Lebanese resistance reports clash

BEIRUT (AP) — Resistance fighters said Sunday a guerrilla infiltrator was killed in a clash with Israeli troops inside the enclave the Jewish state occupies in South Lebanon. The National Resistance said in a statement issued in Beirut that a squad of infiltrators was ambushed by an Israeli patrol at Dawn Saturday near the village of Qussein in Israel's self-styled "security zone." The statement said a 15-minute firefight ensued, during which one of the infiltrators, named Mohammad Salameh, was killed. The Israeli army said Saturday that two guerrillas had been killed in an overnight clash with Israeli soldiers in the same area of the "security zone." There are often conflicting reports from the two sides.

Iran denies Egyptian charges

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran on Sunday denied allegations that it was sending arms to Muslim fundamentalists in Egypt, the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency quoted a Foreign Ministry source as saying the Egyptian allegations were "baseless." The source said the allegations were aimed at "deceiving public opinion." IRNA reported, Egypt's deputy prime minister, Youssef Waly, was quoted as saying by Cairo newspapers Friday that Iran and Sudan were plotting to destabilise Egypt (see page 2). He said that Iran was training Egyptian and Sudanese "terrorists."

Iraq returning equipment to Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq is to begin returning spare parts for military aircraft and medical equipment seized during its seven-month occupation of Kuwait, the Kuwait News Agency reported on Sunday. Baghdad would begin sending spare parts and a dismantled C-130 transport plane kept at Iraq's Habaniya airbase on Monday, the agency said. One hundred trailer-loads of medical equipment taken from Kuwaiti hospitals would also begin arriving via Arab in Saudi Arabia on Aug. 24. And a base would be set up at Safwan in southern Iraq in September to receive tanks, armoured personnel carriers and other military hardware taken from the emirate, the agency said. Iraq has already returned about \$700 million dollars worth of gold, several helicopters, pleasure boats and treasures belonging to Kuwait's ruling family in compliance with U.N. ceasefire regulations.

Pakistan orders new probe into Zia death

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif named a new high-level judicial commission on Sunday to investigate the death of military ruler Mohammad Zia ul Haq in a mysterious air crash four years ago. The inquiry was the second ordered by Mr. Sharif since he came to power 21 months ago and was announced eight days before the fourth anniversary of the death of General Zia, who seized power in a military coup in 1977. The three-man commission, headed by Supreme Court Judge Shafiqur Rehman, will have up to six months to report on the cause of the crash of the air force C-130 Hercules transport on Aug. 17, 1988 and to determine if it was sabotage and by whom, a government statement said.

4 killed in feud over land in Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Four men have been killed in an Egyptian village in a one-year-old vendetta between two families over farmland, security sources said on Sunday. Nine men abducted three cousins from a car on Friday, shot them dead and cut up their bodies in a village 45 kilometres south of the central Egyptian city of Assiut, the sources said. The body of a member of the abductors' family was found in the village the same day. The sources said the feud started last year when a quarrel over demarcation of fields erupted into a gunbattle in which two men were killed. They said the two families had since sold the disputed land to finance weapons purchases.

Parliament calls for national unity and respect for pluralism

Call issued against backdrop of 'corruption' probes

House begins debate on draft law on press and publications

AMMAN (J.T.) — Parliament Sunday called on Jordanians to uphold national unity and political pluralism, saying the Kingdom's democratic march was based on these two foundations. The call, made by Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Aarabiyat at a regular session attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and cabinet members, came against the backdrop of investigations into alleged corruption cases and an unprecedented decision by the House to indict a former minister for alleged misuse of office. The affair has led to demonstrations and demands by residents of the former Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Hawamdeh's town of Tadhah that the indictment against him be dropped or the entire cabinet in which he served be indicted (see separate story). Dr. Aarabiyat, without directly referring to the affair, appeared to appeal to the people. "The Jordanian Parliament, people and leadership have

embodied national unity through daily practices by the Jordanian people who respect counter opinions," Dr. Aarabiyat told the House. "This is a translation of the concept of pluralism that the Jordanians try to achieve and deepen," he said. The House indictment against Mr. Hawamdeh was related to a multi-million highway construction contract. Parliament turned down a motion to indict former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and former Finance Minister Hanna Odeh on the same charges. The Parliament decisions, taken last Monday, have aroused a public stir, with Mr. Rifai issuing a statement accusing Parliament members of levelling false charges against him and the chairman of the House's Investigations Committee counter-attacking him, saying that Parliament was pursuing other corruption cases in Jordan. Following Dr. Aarabiyat's speech, the House got down to discussing the press and publication draft law.

Parliament officials said that the House's Law Committee had held 10 meetings to debate the various articles of the draft law, which was presented to the full House for a final discussion. Officials said that together with the political parties law, the press and publication law constitutes the pillar of democracy in Jordan. The draft law consists of 59 articles, and the Law Committee has stressed in its report a number of important principles which, among other things, included the following: — The right of Jordanian citizens in exercising free press and publications as guaranteed by the Constitution. — In this regard the committee's report recommends that the Jordanians be given the right to own, produce and distribute publications. — The draft law gives definitions of the concerned ministry, the information services, the Jordan Press Association, and periodicals. — The draft law also states that

the press can exercise its work freely in providing the public with news and commentaries and contribute towards propagating culture and ideology and sciences. The draft law also provides for safeguarding public freedoms. — According to the draft law the quest to acquire news and information is an integral part of a free press. A free press means allowing the public access to facts, ideas and information, which are of interest to the local, community at the local, Arab, pan-Arab and international levels. — The draft law provides for newspapers and the news agencies and the editors and journalists to refrain from revealing their sources of information. The committee's report said that a free press can only be regarded within the framework of constitutional freedoms. Although most of the amendments suggested by the Law Committee are linguistic and stylistic, (Continued on page 5)



Former Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Hawamdeh, who was indicted by Parliament for alleged misuse of public funds, Sunday addresses supporters who converged on his house after demonstrations (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Protesters demand charges against Rifai cabinet or reversal of Hawamdeh indictment

By Ayman Al Safadi and Suhair Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — About 500 Jordanians marched through the streets of Amman Sunday, castigating Parliament for its indictment of former Public Works Minister Mahmoud Hawamdeh on charges of corruption and misuse of state funds. The demonstrators, who took

the 120-kilometre trip from Mr. Hawamdeh's home town of Tadhah to Amman to express their anger over what they called a smear on their town's name, accused the Lower House of Parliament of selectivity and demanded that either the charges against Mr. Hawamdeh be dropped or all members of the cabinet of former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai be put on trial. Chanting slogans demon-

ing their belief that corruption is widespread in the country, the protesters demanded to see His Majesty King Hussein and asked for his protection against the "deputies' injustice." "Down with Parliament. We want to see the King, the only fair leader who can protect us from the injustices of the deputies," chanted the protesters, who in-

Jordan, Palestinians discuss self-government

By Rama Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestinians began delicate and detailed talks on Sunday on loosening ties during an interim period of limited self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories emerging from Middle East peace talks. "There are common issues between us and the Palestinians during the interim period which he started to sort out now," said a senior Jordanian official, who requested anonymity. The discussions were taking place as it emerged in Israel that the Rabin government was proposing legalising contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The Israeli justice ministry said it was drafting an amendment to the law forbidding contact with the PLO which Israel has long considered a "terrorist" organisation (see separate story). Palestinian and Jordanian officials said Sunday's discussions in Amman covered ways of helping Palestinians realise gradual self-government through cutting sweeping socio-economic and administrative links developed with Israel under 25 years of occupation. (Continued on page 5)

The detailed talks have been prompted by high hopes that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will fulfil promises to give Palestinians limited autonomy in nine months. "There are also issues between the Palestinians and Israel on the one hand, and between us, the Palestinians and the Israelis on the other hand, which also have to be defined before the next round of peace talks," a Jordanian official said. The next session of talks in Jordan is due to be held around Aug. 17. "Jordan's relationship with the interim... phase was at the heart of our talks," said Palestinian peace delegate Saeb Erekat. He gave no details. Unlike the first rounds of Middle East talks which failed to achieve any progress mainly because of the hardline policies of Israel's former Likud-led government, Arabs hope Mr. Rabin and his negotiators will be more flexible in the Washington meetings. Negotiators to the U.S.-backed peace process launched in October, have been considering a proposal for a five-year period of interim self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with talks on

Rabin cabinet plans to amend anti-PLO law

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Legislators of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party are taking steps to legalise meetings with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a government minister said Sunday. Officials said Labour was introducing a bill to nullify part of a 1986 amendment barring contacts with "terrorist" groups, which is how Israel defines the PLO. However, they said Israel still would bar the PLO into peace talks. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview with the Italian newspaper Il Messaggero that the government would propose changing the law once parliament returns from its summer break in October. Asked on Israel Radio about Mr. Peres's comments, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said he and legislator Yael Dayan, daughter of the late General Moshe Dayan, were introducing legislation on the subject. Mr. Beilin said of the 1986 amendment that Mr. Rabin's cabinet has "a deep commitment to change this terrible law. We all think today that it's a stupid law." He said his bill legalise meetings with members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) unless the meeting is held "with intent to harm (Israeli) state interests." Mr. Beilin said this would put Israeli law in line with most Western countries where intent is a key aspect of the law. "Everyone thinks this law is idiotic that you cannot meet with someone connected to the Palestine National Council even if he is a professor in a Washington university," Mr. Beilin told Israel Radio. The 1986 amendment to Israel's law allows a three-year jail term for contacts with the PLO. Two Israelis have been jailed under the law, notably peace crusader Abie Nathan who served two prison terms for meeting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Mr. Beilin also said, however, that Israel intended to continue with its policy of negotiating only with Palestinians in peace talks, rather than with PLO officials. "We have found a formula for dialogue with the Palestinians," Mr. Beilin said. "We have been sitting with Palestinians in peace talks, all of whom are close to the PLO. This is no secret." "They get orders, consult with the PLO and have photographs

U.N. team begins new mission in Iraq; no problems reported

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. weapons experts inspected a so far undisclosed site in Iraq on Sunday and returned to their hotels without any reported problems. "It was an inspection day, the first one. That is all it was," Nikita Smidovich, head of the 22-member team, told reporters when the inspectors returned to their hotel. "We went where we planned to go." Asked whether the team saw what it wanted to see, Mr. Smidovich said: "Yes." He declined to say whether the team tried to inspect any government ministries, put off-limits to U.N. arms inspectors by Baghdad last Thursday, or whether the

inspection site was in or outside the capital. "Really I have nothing to report to you," he said. Asked about cooperation with Iraqi officials, Mr. Smidovich said: "It was a normal inspection day for us." He declined to say whether the inspectors found anything unexpected but said Iraqi officials treated American experts in the team no differently from the other members. The field work started a day later than planned, after the Iraqis said Saturday, the official end of the eight-year Iraq-Iran war in 1988, was a national holiday. Mr. Smidovich said his team would continue its mission on Monday. (Continued on page 5)

The team, which arrived on Friday, was the first to enter Iraq since U.N. inspectors searched the Ministry of Agriculture on July 28 and 29 after a three-week standoff that drew threats of force from the United States. That was the gravest confrontation yet between the U.N. and Baghdad over the scrapping of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction since inspections started in April last year. The team left its hotel on Sunday morning in seven four-wheel-drive vehicles escorted by eight cars and vans and a police car carrying Iraqi security men. The U.N. vehicles, some still

Settlers challenge Rabin with building

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Dozens of Jewish settlers barricaded themselves in a hastily built structure in the occupied West Bank for several hours Sunday in a dispute with the army over construction of settlement housing. The confrontation, which ended peacefully, was the first serious test of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's pledge to curb settlement building in hopes of winning U.S. aid to help absorb Soviet immigrants. About 300 settlers were involved in the protest against the Rabin government's limitations on new settler housing in the occupied territories, an army source said. One man was injured and about 10 others were detained by the army before an agreement was worked out for the settlers to leave the site in the settlement of Kiryat Arba, above the town of Hebron. Settlers agreed to leave after the army promised not to demolish the building until the issue is settled in court, settler leader Noam Arnon said on Israel Television. The settlers, who chose the Jewish fast day of Tisha B'av to

stage their protest, began to build the new house in the middle of the night in an area where new construction has been frozen, the army said. The army declared the area a closed military zone and ordered the settlers to evacuate the site. Dozens refused, including some who brought gas masks to prevent being ejected by tear-gas, Israel Radio reported. The radio said the settlers constructed a cement floor and four cement-brick walls. During the ensuing confrontation, one settler was hit on the head with a soldier's rifle butt and others were treated for dehydration. Mr. Rabin, now in the United States, meets President George Bush on Monday at the president's vacation home in Maine to discuss Israel's request for \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees over a five-year period. (See page 2) Mr. Bush had refused the loan guarantees when the previous government of Yitzhak Shamir refused to halt a settlement building drive. U.S. policy considers the settlements an obstacle to a

Aghans flee Kabul as truce efforts falter

KABUL (Agencies) — Thousands of people fled Kabul on Sunday after the government apparently failed to negotiate a halt to shelling between rival Mujahedeen groups in the capital. Thousands fled in trucks, buses and on foot. They left a ghost town devastated by rocket and shelling. "Our houses are being destroyed and the government does nothing," said a young widow who gave her name only as Mumtaz. "I'm going to move to my husband's family in Herat for the safety of my son." Smoke billowed across the city from rocket strikes. The interior and defence ministries said on Saturday they would soon announce a ceasefire, possibly by noon on Sunday. Interior Minister Ahmad Shah, Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood and his deputies from the three parties were said to be involved in the ceasefire talks, but they have apparently failed to reach any agreement. At least 35 people were killed and scores more injured in the power struggle among the rebel factions in the Islamic interim government, rebel sources said. (Continued on page 2)

Witnesses said it was the fiercest fighting since the new leadership replaced the former communist regime that collapsed in late April. The fighting prompted President Burhanuddin Rabbani to cancel a three-day official visit to Iran, a spokesman said. Mr. Rabbani was to leave for Tehran Saturday, but the spokesman said the trip had been called off because "some urgent matters in the country." One rocket slammed into the presidential palace compound in central Kabul, killing eight people and injuring 12, government sources said. Defence Ministry spokesman Sayed Dalili said the hardline Ittehad-e-Islami, made up of Sunni Muslims, was fighting the Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat group in the west of Kabul. Hezb-e-Wahdat spokesman Mohammad Karim Khalili said the group was willing to halt artillery fire if Ittehad followed suit. No one from Ittehad was available to comment. The two rival religious groups have fought sporadic battles in the area since the Mujahedeen

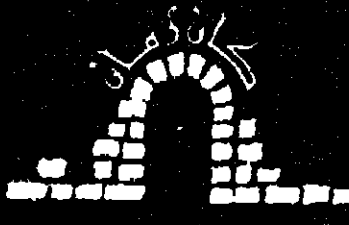

Hooded men blow up Algerian town hall

ALGIERS (R) — At least five hooded men broke into the town hall in the east Algerian town of Essanour early on Sunday and blew up the building, Algiers radio said. The attack was the first of its kind in the wave of violence which has swept Algeria since the authorities cancelled elections which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) looked set to win. The courts outlawed the FIS in March. In a separate incident in the western town of Sidi Bel Abbas, a policeman guarding a hospital was shot dead during the night by unidentified gunmen who escaped in a vehicle, the official Algerian news agency APS reported.

Top Shiite scholar laid to rest in Najaf

BAGHDAD (R) — The world's top Shiite Muslim scholar, Abdolqassem Al-Khoei, was buried on Sunday in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf at a ceremony attended by a large crowd of clerics and followers, the Iraq News Agency (INA) said. The INA despatch contradicted reports carried by Iran's IRNA news agency suggesting variously that Grand Ayatollah Khoei was buried on Saturday in a hasty, family ceremony and that Iraq was preventing its Shiites from turning out to mourn him. The Iranian-born ayatollah died aged 92 in the southern Iraqi town of Kufa on Saturday, two weeks after leaving Baghdad's Ben Ali Nafis hospital following surgery to fit a pacemaker in his heart. "The funeral was attended by Najaf Governor Karim Hassan Reda, officials from the Ministry of Endowments and Religious

Affairs and a large crowd of clerics and followers," INA said. Both Iraq and Shiite Iran, which were at war from 1980 to 1988, declared three days of national mourning for Ayatollah Khoei who spent most of his life in Najaf writing more than 90 books on theology (see page 2). Shortly after a crushed post Gulf war Shiite rebellion against the government of President Saddam Hussein, Ayatollah Khoei appeared on Iraqi Television meeting the Iraqi leader. He spoke out against the fighting, which Iraq blamed on Iran. Ayatollah Khoei's followers outside Iraq accused the government of kidnapping him, detaining members of his family and forcing him to make the appearance. They said Iraq kept him virtually under house arrest. Iran, which harbours Iraqi

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Bush-Rabin summit could help president woo Jewish voters

By Gene Gibbons
Reuters

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — President George Bush, his popularity with voters at a record low, on Sunday prepared for a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that could boost his standing with American Jews at the polls.

At the summit on Monday, the two will try to repair an erosion of U.S.-Israeli ties resulting from a dispute over the hardline settlements policy of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Jewish voters will be watching the two-day summit closely, analysts said.

"It's an important meeting. Jewish voters are attentive to moves by the president to return this critical relationship between the United States and its only democratic ally in the Middle East to a kind of intimacy that has existed in the past," said Jason Isaacson, an official of the American Jewish Committee.

Mr. Bush, whose rating has slumped to the lowest level of his presidency, is expected to announce an aid package for Israel in the talks at his vacation home. Such a move would be warmly welcomed by American Jewish voters.

Under Mr. Shamir, U.S.-Israeli ties dipped to their lowest point since the 1970s when Washington was at

odds with then-Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin over exchanging territory for peace.

Mr. Rabin defeated Mr. Shamir's Likud Party in June elections by convincing voters that Mr. Shamir's tough settlements policy was depriving the Israeli economy of vital U.S. aid.

U.S. officials said Mr. Bush was ready to reward Mr. Rabin for curbing future construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories by approving up to \$10 billion in credits to help Israel absorb 400,000 Soviet emigres.

The president spurned Mr. Shamir's plea for the loan guarantees because of their clash over settlements, which Washington has long considered an obstacle to peace.

In doing so, his popularity dropped with many in the American Jewish community.

"Rabin's victory and the meetings in Kennebunkport should help break down some barriers that have arisen between the president and Jewish voters," a Bush aide said.

Mr. Isaacson said such a move would be warmly re-

ceived by U.S. Jews, a traditionally Democratic constituency whose importance and influence in the November 3 presidential election far outweighs its size.

Although there are only 5.5 million Jews in the United States, they live in the key states of New York, New Jersey, Florida, Illinois and California.

Mr. Bush, who is trailing Democratic challenger Bill Clinton in the public opinion polls, got about 30 per cent of the Jewish vote in his 1988 election contest — enough to make the difference in several pivotal states.

"Current projections for Bush (among Jewish voters) are very low," said a Jewish leader who asked not to be identified. He attributed this to the president's opposition to the loan guarantees and the fact that Mr. Clinton has gone the extra mile to reach out to the Jewish community.

In addition to Middle East issues, Mr. Bush and Mr. Rabin were expected to discuss the Yugoslav civil war, another hot-spot that Jewish voters are watching.

Mr. Bush said in a U.S. News and World Report interview made public over the weekend that the United States "will not be found wanting" in supporting international efforts to end the ethnic strife.



Jewish settlers led by opposition political parties demonstrate against curbs on Israeli settlements in the occupied territories on the eve of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's departure to the U.S. for Monday's meeting with President George Bush.

But maintaining his cautious stance on the use of force to stop the Serbian slaughter of civilians in Bosnia, he said that "in fairness I have to say to the American people there is no evidence that what's happening is genocide."

Three leading U.S. Jewish groups published a full-page advertisement in the New York Times last week con-

demning alleged Serbian mistreatment of Bosnian prisoners and urging world leaders to "stop the death camps."

"We can't watch this and not react. Our memories of the Holocaust are too strong for that. If the president takes decisive action to end this tragedy, that would bring a lot of support from the Jewish community," Mr. Isaacson said.

Sudanese minister in Cairo to mend fences

CAIRO (AP) — A high-ranking Sudanese official arrived in Cairo Sunday to diffuse tension between the two countries arising from a border dispute.

Ali Osman Yassin, assistant foreign minister, was expected to meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa to discuss the area of Halaib over which both countries claim sovereignty. They are also likely to discuss recent accusations by Egypt that Sudan's fundamentalist government is training Egyptian Muslim extremists and supplying them with weapons.

Mr. Yassin told reporters at Cairo airport that he was here to "remove the tension that has increased in the past few days."

He did not say when he will meet Mr. Musa.

"The special relationship between Egypt and Sudan cannot sustain the tension that has happened," he added.

Officials in both countries have traded accusations lately aggravating the strain in relations. Youssef Wali, Egypt's deputy prime minister, accused Sudan and its ally Iran of smuggling arms to Muslim extremists in Egypt and training anti-Egyptian "terrorists" at camps at the southern border. He warned that Egypt will respond "with the utmost severity and strength" if any "terrorist" act is committed.

Sudan's military ruler Omar Hassan Al-Bashir denied the existence of "terrorist" installation in his country.

Sudan's ambassador to Egypt, Ezzeddin Hamed, said Wednesday at a news conference in the Egyptian capital that his country was worried about Cairo's recent hosting of a delegation from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army that has been waging a civil war against the government since 1983.

The envoy also said Khartoum may take the border dispute to international organizations and denied that his country would resort to force to solve the issue.

On Sunday, Mr. Yassin echoed his remarks over the use of military force. He denied press reports that either country had sent reinforcements to the border.

"This cannot happen because the relationship between the two countries does not allow that. We are one people," he said.

Egypt and Sudan, neighbors that have quarreled for centuries, have seen the worst deterioration in relations since the Gulf war when Sudan sided with Iraq while Egypt opposed Baghdad. Sudan has recently strengthened relations with fundamentalist Iran, a long-standing enemy of Egypt's secular government which has worried Cairo.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

2 Americans killed in Kuwait crash

KUWAIT (AP) — Marines conducting war games in Kuwait suffered their first casualties Sunday with the death of a two-man helicopter crew in a crash, the navy said. Their AH-1W Cobra helicopter crashed at about 2 a.m. (2300 GMT Saturday) at a training site 12 kilometres south of the Kuwait-Iraqi border, according to a statement released by the U.S. navy's Central Command office here. The cause of the crash is still under investigation, but the statement said the Cobra was unarmored and conducting a routine training flight at the time of the accident. The names of the two crewmen on board were not released pending notification of the next of kin. About 1,900 marines landed in Kuwait Aug. 4 to take part in desert exercises with their Kuwaiti counterparts scheduled to last through Aug. 15. While the manoeuvres have been billed as routine training, officers on both sides have said they are a message to Iraq to avoid attacking Kuwait should the showdown over enforcing the Gulf war ceasefire terms erupt into hostilities.

Bank Hapoalim chairman dies at 58

TEL AVIV (AP) — Eitan Berglas, chairman of the board of one of Israel's largest banks and a former economics adviser to Israeli governments, has died at age 58. Israeli media said Mr. Berglas died Saturday at a Jerusalem hospital after a lengthy illness without giving details. He was to be buried Sunday in Tel Aviv. The Israeli-born Berglas held a doctorate in economics from the University of Chicago. He was named to the board of Bank Hapoalim in 1985. In that role, he helped bail out key Israeli industries threatened by bankruptcy, such as the conglomerate Koor and the Sotef Boneh construction firm, the Haaretz daily said. Mr. Berglas was also part of a team of advisers that drew up a price freeze plan which whittled an annual inflation rate of upwards of 400 per cent down to a two-digit figure within a year, beginning in 1985. He was among the founders of the economics department at Tel Aviv University and was once the university's dean of social sciences.

Paper defends Mugabe against accusations

HARARE (AP) — A state-run newspaper on Saturday defended President Robert Mugabe against allegations of anti-Semitism after reports that he called Jews "hard-hearted" in a speech. "One understands the Jews' feelings against persecution," said the Herald, the country's largest daily. "Blacks such as us who have been persecuted throughout history abhor persecution more than any other race on earth." The newspaper said Zimbabwe's tiny Jewish minority overreacted and insulted Zimbabweans by "their reminder that they contribute to the economy and give blankets to poor black children." According to one report, Mr. Mugabe responded to a peasant's complaint about white ranchers' refusal to allow grazing on their land by saying, "commercial farmers are hard-hearted. You would think they were Jews." Jewish leaders asked to meet with Mugabe, and said the reports could foster anti-Semitic attacks. There are about 1,000 Jews in Zimbabwe. Mr. Mugabe's office has made no comment on the dispute and has not met with Jewish leaders. In the United States, the World Jewish Congress sent a protest to the Zimbabwe government.

President of Burkina Faso visits Libya

NICOSIA (R) — President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso arrived in Tripoli Saturday on an official visit, the first by non-Arab leader since the United Nations imposed sanctions in April. The Libyan news agency JANA said Mr. Compaore, one of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi's few foreign friends, was accompanied by several senior officials. The United Nations imposed sanctions after Libya refused to hand over two nationals for trial in the West for their alleged part in the bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. The airliner was on flights to and from Libya, bar arms sales, and limit Libyan diplomatic representation abroad.

Egyptian airliner aborts takeoff

CAIRO (R) — The pilot of a London-bound Egyptair Airbus aborted the jet's takeoff on Sunday when the wheels apparently caught fire as the aircraft sped down a runway at Cairo international airport. The crew and 260 passengers were evacuated safely from Flight MS 777 as firemen doused the jet's smoking undercarriage, airport security sources said.

Three Belarussians killed by methanol

CAIRO (AP) — Three Belarussians working in Egypt died after drinking methanol in the dry city of Tanta in the Delta region, police and Russian embassy sources said Sunday. Yuri Suslov, 31; Anatoly Gagan, 35; and Sergei Matveev, 38; all from Vitebsk in Belarus, died Friday night after consuming methanol bought from a drugstore. They were taken to hospital when they fell sick while drinking with friends in the evening, but could not be saved. The sale of alcoholic beverages is banned in Tanta, 100 kilometres north of Cairo, said Abdul Wahab Salem, attorney general of Tanta. Local authorities in some Egyptian provinces and towns have forbidden the sale of alcoholic drinks in accordance with Islamic tenets. Vladimir Volonov, Russian consul, said the three dead men were pilots and technicians but he could not specify each person's exact job. He said they were part of a group of 63 Belarussians hired by Egypt's Ministry of Agriculture to fly pesticide-spraying helicopters over fields in the Nile River's Delta area. They had moved to Tanta this spring.

Indian actors in UAE court for blasphemy

ABU DHABI (R) — Eleven Indians went on trial in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday for their role in a play which officials say blasphemes against Islam and Christianity. The writer of "Corpus-Eating Actors," a theatre employee, and organizers who staged the one-act play on May 28 are on trial in Sharjah's court of first instance, a court official told Reuters. The trial centres around allegations that the actors portrayed characters who ate the bodies of Jesus and Prophet Mohammed. The case was adjourned until Sept. 9 after one defendant refused to appear in court. Blasphemy cases in the UAE are usually punished with deportation and sometimes imprisonment. In June a Belgian schoolteacher lost her job after throwing a Korean in the dustbin. Earlier this year, an Indian man was briefly imprisoned and then expelled after he cursed Islam in public.

Iran mourns death of top Shiite cleric in Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — Iran declared three days of official mourning on Sunday for the world's highest-ranking Shiite Muslim scholar and accused Iraq of preventing Shiites there from turning out en masse for his funeral.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said the death in southern Iraq on Saturday of Grand Ayatollah Abdolkassem Al-Khoei was a "great catastrophe" for Islam.

Ayatollah Khamenei, whose remarks were carried by Iran's IRNA news agency, described 92-year-old Khoei as "one of the standard-bearers of Islamic sciences."

He said Ayatollah Khoei was the "pivot" of the crushed Shiite rebellion in Iraq after the Gulf war in March 1991. "For this reason he was tormented by the Baathist regime of Baghdad after the suppression of the movement," he added.

IRNA, received in Nicosia, said Iraq had imposed martial law in the southern city of Najaf, where Ayatollah Khoei spent most of his life, and prevented mass attendance at his funeral there on Sunday.

— Reports speak of heavy secur-

ity and presence of troops around the religious sites in Iraq, especially in the holy cities, to suppress a possible outbreak of discontent and public display of emotion on the sad demise of the grand ayatollah," it said. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

Iranian-born Khoei left Baghdad's Ben Ali Nafis hospital two weeks ago after surgery to fit a pacemaker in his heart.

He died in Kufa, where he moved in 1990 after spending most of his life in nearby Najaf and writing more than 90 books on Shiite theology. His books made him the Shiites' highest authority on religious matters.

During the Shiite unrest that followed the Gulf war in February last year, Ayatollah Khoei's followers accused President Saddam Hussein of kidnapping him, and forcing him to appear on television to express support for the crushing of the uprising.

Iraq also declared three days of mourning for Ayatollah Khoei. "Khoei was an ideal cleric who devoted his life to serving Islam and the goals of his country," the Iraqi government daily Al-Jumhuriyah said in a frontpage report.

260 killed in Ethiopian clan war

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — At least 260 people were killed and 300 were wounded in fighting between two ethnic Somali clans over grazing rights in eastern Ethiopia, a news agency said Saturday.

There was no medical care for the wounded or food for some 75,000 people whose homes were destroyed in the clashes near Somalia's border, said the Ethiopian News Agency.

The news agency said the fighting began in mid-June after a member of one clan was killed in a dispute over grazing rights.

The clashes continued through July, according to the agency.

It attributed the report to a representative of the Ethiopian Somali Democratic Movement, one of 12 political parties composed mainly of ethnic Somalis.

It was impossible to verify the report independently, but the Democratic Movement was one of several political parties which recently sent a team to investigate the clashes.

Bashir says God helped Sudan army against rebels

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military leader said his Muslim fundamentalist government, by rejecting help from everybody but God, has won military victories and obtained relief from famine.

He told a provincial audience that Sudan was beset by enemies but has sought refuge with Allah, and will bow only to Him.

"The enemies of Sudan and the enemy-backed Sudanese taking residence in foreign hotels" predicted southern rebels would win a civil war begun almost 10 years ago, Lieutenant-Senator Omar Hassan Al-Bashir said.

"We prayed to Allah, who provided us with strength," Gen. Bashir said at a rally in a hamlet 50 kilometres east of Khartoum.

"The army troops and the popular defence men shouted 'Allahu Akbar' which was echoed by the forest trees and which helped destroy the strongholds of the rebels."

Government troops took 14 towns in the southern jungles this year, including the rebel headquarters centre Torit, but many military analysts say the war over southern autonomy cannot be won by the either side.

Juba, the main government-

controlled town, remains under siege, with an estimated 350,000 people sheltering there. Relief workers unable to resupply them say they risk starvation from war-induced famine.

Gen. Bashir's government, which took power in a 1989 coup, rejected pressure from international aid donors in late 1990 to proclaim famine in the south and west. Many thousands were forced from their homes, and an undernourished million died.

The junta leader told his audience the decision not to declare famine resulted from the policy of relying "on God."

Kabul

(Continued from page 1)

oust the government of President Najibullah in April.

Mr. Daili said the Hezb-e-Islami group based in the south of Kabul was responsible for rocketing the city centre. Its leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, intensified his rocket attacks on the capital this week and forced the closure of the airport by threatening to shoot at any planes trying to use it.

Scandal that began with a bang may end with a whimper

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The Iran-contras scandal that began with a bang nearly six years ago may end with a whimper — with few convictions, waning public anger and insufficient evidence to indict former U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Even though ex-Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) spy-master Clair George is on trial, members of the office of independent counsel plan to end their inquiry within a matter of weeks.

For their efforts — and for the more than \$32 million in federal money spent on the inquiry — the independent counsel's office, headed by Lawrence Walsh, has relatively

little to show.

The scandal stemmed from a secret scheme run out of the White House — apparently without Mr. Reagan's knowledge — in 1985-86 to sell arms to Iran in an unsuccessful effort to win the freedom of the American hostages held in Lebanon.

Millions of dollars in profits from the sales were funnelled through secret Swiss bank accounts to the Nicaraguan contra rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista government despite a congressional ban on U.S. military aid.

Mr. Walsh has defended the cost of the probe, saying the scandal undermined the government's system of checks and balances when Reagan aides lied in trying to hide the

affair from Congress.

Now the prosecutors have told Mr. Reagan he is not a target, and the former president's lawyer says Mr. Reagan is unlikely to testify in any Iran-contras case.

"It confirms what we've felt has been the case all along: That President Reagan is not being investigated by the Iran-contras independent counsel on any allegations of criminal activity," Reagan lawyer Theodore Olson said last Tuesday. After nearly six years the problems that the Iran-contras plan sought to solve — the hostage crisis in Lebanon and the communist threat in Latin America — have abated.

The last U.S. hostages were freed on 1991, democratic elec-

tions have been held in Nicaragua, and the threat of world communist domination seems more remote than ever.

The world was far different in November 1986, when the Iran-contras scandal erupted in Washington.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Mr. Reagan, one of the most popular of all 20th century presidents, appeared shaken as he appeared on national television to try to explain the plan. He fumbled by saying the deal had never been an arms-for-hostages swap, and his aides later corrected that statement.

Within days, Mr. Reagan had sacked U.S. Marine

Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, who was one of his National Security Council aides, and forced Col. North's boss, Admiral John Poindexter, to resign. Before the year ended, Mr. Walsh had been named to head a special prosecutor's investigation of the affair.

Before Congress in 1987 and in a celebrated trial in 1989, Col. North testified that he carried out orders that came from the highest reaches of the White House, presumably including Mr. Reagan.

Adm. Poindexter, in words that served as an epitaph for his glittering career, told Congress that "the buck stops here with me" and said Mr. Reagan knew nothing about the diversion of funds from the arms

sales to the contras.

In the end, the convictions of both Col. North and Adm. Poindexter were reversed on appeal. Mr. Reagan Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger chose to stand trial himself rather than cooperate with Iran-contras investigators.

Reagan-era officials Elliott Abrams and Robert McFarlane pleaded guilty and received light sentences.

Former CIA official Alan Fiers was sentenced in January to one year of probation and 100 hours of community service on two misdemeanor counts of withholding information from Congress.

Mr. Reagan has retired to California, having left the White House more popular than any known predecessor.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Caire de la Lune
18:10 Le Monde Sans Frontières
18:30 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 A Perfect Hero
21:10 News in English
22:30 Stream Family

PRAYER TIMES

06:26 Fajr
07:51 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:41 Dhuhr
14:21 'Asr
19:51 Maghreb
20:57 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625453
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772361

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assuan International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 632624, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northwesterly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 20 / 32
Aqaba 25 / 41
Dumra 18 / 26
Jordan Valley 24 / 40

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 32, Aqaba 41. Humidity reading: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 14 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yusef Samour 615648
Dr. King Abu Zeina 894295
Dr. Issam Al Assar 890504
Dr. Adnan Zaghal 898140
First pharmacy 661912
First pharmacy 778336
Al Assar pharmacy 670253
Naironah pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shameel pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:
Dr. Omar Tahaouny (—)
Al Shura'a pharmacy (273825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Hyatt (—)
Khalifa pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rance 891228
Fire Brigade 773121
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 895483
Traffic Police 895390
Public Security Department 630321
Police Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (direct-dial) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680108
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

HOSPITALS

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53300
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53300
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Matouzy, J. Amn 642816
Alkhal Matouzy, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642342
Mehar, J. Amman 636164
Palestine, Shamsat 664174
Shamsat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 894646
The Islamic, Abadi 666123/37
Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164
Jalal, Al-Mahdjour 771013
Al-Badri, J. Amn 771112/26
Amn, Matn 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602405/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)80560
Rm Sam Hospital (09)86132
Al Elham Modern Hospital (09)89970
BIRZA:
Farras Basm Hospital (02)73355
Qusayr Hospital (02)72255
Rm Al-Nafsa Hospital (02)67100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53205-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Sams (RJ)
06:45 Jeddah (RJ)
07:15 Riyadh (RJ)
07:30 Doha (RJ)
07:45 New Delhi (RJ)
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:15 Beirut (RJ)
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JSCEP promotes environmental awareness in Tafleeh region

TAFLEH (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP), on Sunday held a symposium on agriculture and the environment for farmers from Tafleeh governorate.

The two-day symposium organized in cooperation with Friedrich Nauman Corporation, aims at promoting public awareness about dangers of environmental pollution, and means of controlling pollution.

Addressing the opening session, Tafleeh governor Khalid Al Bawazir said Tafleeh has no grave environmental problems. However, this does not mean that the area should be neglected or that environmental aspects should be ignored.

Mr. Bawazir noted that symposium in Tafleeh is in line with the JSCEP's efforts to sensitize people to environmental issues and making them aware of the need to preserve the environment.

Friedrich Nauman Corporation's representative Walter Rodl reviewed the environmental problems worldwide. He cited soil erosion, desertification, high population growth, and environmental related problems. He praised efforts by voluntary organisations and government institutions in preserving the environment and expanding farm areas to achieve self sufficiency.

The symposium was attended by a number of farmers, members of cooperative societies, and head of municipal councils.

The symposium includes lectures on agriculture, environment, fertilisers, advantages and disadvantages of chemicals post control and developing pastures.

General cooperative federation to be established in Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — A celebration was held Sunday at the Palace of Culture of Al Hussein Youth City to honour members of cooperative societies and organisations for their outstanding achievements during the past year.

Director General of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Jamal Bedour delivered an address saying that this celebration, held annually to honour people working with cooperative societies, is held this year as many excellent results were witnessed in the work of these societies.

Dr. Bedour outlined the achievements of the organisation in administrative and financial levels and in establishing new cooperative societies. He said that a total of 568 cooperative societies were established up until May 30, 1992. He said the activities of these societies cover all the Kingdom's governorates and has a 56,000 membership.

He added that of the total number of cooperative societies, 229 are agricultural and 339 are non-agricultural. Dr. Bedour said a general cooperative federation will be established in the Kingdom after specialised cooperative associations are established.

Dr. Bedour also reviewed the role of JCO in supporting the agricultural sector in the country, its achievements in the fields of increasing animal wealth, producing green animal feed, establishing housing units for members of the cooperative societies and farmers, encouraging the manufacture of handicrafts, processing salt and solving the problem of the surplus of fresh milk.

He also outlined the organisation's role in providing training and guidance to the agricultural sector through the cooperative institute and cooperative societies.

The JCO director general said his organisation has also managed to enhance its relation with ministries and institutions in the Kingdom, in addition to Arab cooperative federations and organisations and international societies and organisations.

Several other addresses by heads of cooperative societies were also delivered at the celebration.

At the end of the celebration, Dr. Bedour distributed awards and certificates to cooperative society members.

Restoration committee for tombs of Prophet's companions meets

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee entrusted with following up the restoration of the tombs of the companions of Prophet Mohammad held a meeting Sunday at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Subeihat.

The committee discussed in its meeting issues related to the restoration of Irbid Grand Mosque in the light of a visit to the mosque by the committee members and work plans of the restoration of five tombs of Prophet Mohammad's companions in the northern Jordan Valley region.

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi, who is the committee's official spokesman, said the meeting approved all the work procedures related to the restoration of Irbid Grand Mosque.

The committee has also asked the Ministers of Awqaf and Public Work to prepare aerial photos of the local location in cooperation with the Royal Geographic Centre, the minister added.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King Hussein congratulates Singapore

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to the President of Singapore Wee Kim Wee, congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of Jordan's people and government on Singapore's national day. King Hussein wished President Wee continued good health and happiness and the people and government of Singapore further progress and prosperity.

Pan-Arab conference for youths

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-week pan-Arab conference for Arab youth will start in Ajloun Thursday. Taking part in the camp will be 200 youths from Iraq, Lebanon, Bahrain, Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Palestine, Somalia and Jordan. Talking about the camp's objectives, Youth Minister Saleh Ershaidat said it is aimed at strengthening pan-Arab spirit and encouraging collective participation and promoting scientific and technical awareness. He added that the camp also aims to enhance interaction among Arab youths, promote developmental awareness and enable them to learn about the cultural, historical and touristic places in the Arab World. Dr. Ershaidat said a special national committee for the camp has already been formed to provide the necessary support for this Arab youth gathering. The committee groups a number of Jordanian figures well-known for their contribution to national work. Two such camps were held in Lebanon and Yemen in 1990 and 1991 respectively.

Jordan participates in industry property seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan took part in a meeting on industrial property and its role in economic development in the Arab World held recently in Cairo. The meeting, organised by the World Industrial Property Organisation (WIPO), discussed means of developing industrial property offices in the Arab World, modernising legislation and computer use. Representing Jordan in the meetings was Mohammad Khreizat, director of the commercial register and protection of industrial property at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Mr. Khreizat said the conference discussed the role of inventions and trade marks in economic development and authorising the use of modern technology in industrial property.



King receives Turkish envoy, stresses cultural cooperation

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Sunday Tunisian Minister of Culture Al Mansur Bu Seif and was briefed on the Jordanian-Tunisian talks aimed at promoting cooperation in culture and tourism. King Hussein stressed the need for continuing the process of further promoting bilateral ties in all fields, particularly culture, which, he said, holds the keys for a strong united nation. The meeting was attended by Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra, chief of the Royal Court Khaled Karaki, as well as Jordan's ambassador in Tunis Haidar Mahmoud and Tunisian ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Al Khadrawi. Earlier, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker was briefed on the progress of the talks. Sharif Zeid was quoted as saying at the meeting with Mr. Samra and his Tunisian counterpart that bilateral cooperation can only promote the process of cultural integration between the Arab countries in the East and the North Africa Maghreb region. The two ministers of culture explained the various steps taken by Amman and Tunis to pave the way for further cooperation in tourism, exchanges of printed material, cultural activities and other related forms of cooperation. The two ministers discussed prospects for Jordan's participation in the Tunisia Carthage Cultural Festival and for Tunisia to participate in the annual Jerash Festival. The two sides should double their effort to deepen cooperation in these fields and serve the interest of the two countries, the prime minister said. The Tunisian minister is expected to hold further meetings here before leaving for home Monday evening.

School books, curricula reviewed

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thougan Hindawi on Sunday stressed the need for providing all school requirements before the beginning of the new scholastic year later this month.

Mr. Hindawi, who chaired a meeting for the education committee, said the ministry had almost prepared all requirements in terms of school books. He noted that most of the school books are now available and will be distributed to students at the beginning of the new scholastic year.

He called for speeding up work on the printing of the remaining text books.

In another development, the ministry's secretary general Munther Al Masri chaired a meeting at the ministry to discuss text book development and school curricula. Participants discussed a paper presented by the School Curricula and Educational Technologies department on experimenting with the new school books and evaluating them. It also reviewed mechanisms for involving supervisors, teachers and guardians in the evaluation process.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Muthah and Yarmouk universities, the National Centre for Research and Educational Development, school supervisors and members of the higher committee for the assessment of new school books.

Jordan sends second UN security force to Croatia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Responding to a U.N. request, Jordan Sunday dispatched its second batch of specially trained security forces to war-torn Yugoslavia for the U.N. peace keeping force in Croatia.

The first batch of 500 troops were sent by sea to the war-torn country last April and since then they have been serving under the U.N. flag.

Public Security Department PSD Director Major-General Fadel Ali, who saw the troops off said in an address at a farewell ceremony that the U.N. decision to have Jordan participate in the peace-keeping force reflects the international organisation's recognition of the positive role Jordan plays in the international arena and the country's high credibility.

The dispatch of troops to help secure hot spots reflects Jordan's commitment to the achievement of a just peace and its belief in the right of all nations to live in security, said Maj. Gen. Ali.

He called on the troops to shoulder their responsibility and to serve as Jordan's ambassadors abroad. Last Friday the Jordanian government expressed outrage over reports of torture and executions in the strife-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina and demanded that death camps there be opened to international inspection.

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber called on ambassadors of the five permanent member states of the United Nations Security Council, the European Community and those of Arab and Muslim countries to inform them of Jordan's position on the situation in former Yugoslavia.

Dr. Abu Jaber called on the international community to stand firm against the killing of innocent civilians. Bosnian officials allege that up to 17,000 Muslims and Croats have died in death camps but no independent evidence has yet been found to substantiate their claims.

Reports earlier said more than 1.7 million refugees have been swept from their homes since April during fighting in which Serbs have captured 70 per cent of Bosnian territory. Detention camps have been set up by the Serbs to hold Muslims and Croats driven from their communities in ethnic cleansing operations. Others hold men captured during fighting.

Bataineh defends decision to license new drug stores

AMMAN (J.T.) — The decision taken by the Health Ministry to issue licences to new pharmacies to open drug stores was taken after a thorough study conducted in coordination with all concerned parties, according to Health Minister Aref Bataineh.

The decision, taken recently, is aimed at protecting the interests of the public and the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA), the minister said in an address at a swearing in ceremony for new pharmacists in the JPA.

The Health Ministry is striving to meet medical service needs through close cooperation with the professional unions, the minister said at the ceremony attended by the JPA president and board members. He said that pharmacy is an integral part of the health service and Health Ministry and appreciates the JPA and drugstore's role.

The Health Ministry's decision to give licences for new drugstores triggered fiery protests from JPA members. JPA president Husam Mismar criticised the decision at a press conference last Thursday.

Allowing pharmacists to open more drugstores in Amman two years after their application would cause an imbalance in the profession, Mr. Mismar said at the press conference. Mr. Mismar believes that more licences can only encourage people to open more drugstores in Amman, depriving rural and remote regions of pharmacy services because only a few would move to those regions.

The Health Ministry last year issued 192 licences for new drugstores and 496 applications are waiting to be renewed, according to ministry officials.

Officials said that Jordan now has 1,900 pharmacists working in the private sector, of which 75 per cent are in the Greater Amman region.

Local pharmaceutical firms are said to be supplying the local markets with up to 60 per cent of its medical needs.

At the swearing-in ceremony Sunday, the health minister did not refer to the controversy and the dispute over the issue of drugstores but noted that sufficient studies were conducted before the decision was passed.

28,056 Jordanian engineers now registered with JEA

AMMAN (J.T.) — The total number of Jordanian engineers registered with the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) now stands at 28,056 in the seven different branches of civil, architectural, mechanical, electrical, mining, chemical and applied engineering, according to Mohammad Aql, Head of the Formal Committee at the JEA.

He said that industry is now heading towards very specialised engineering, something which put students face to face with difficult choices.

Mr. Aql made the statement as students are sending in their applications to various Jordanian government and private universities to continue their higher studies. He noted that special care should be taken in guiding students towards specialisations that have a high demand in the local and Arab labour markets.

For instance, Mr. Aql said the civil engineering has 65 specialisations branches such as surveys, bridges, soil and sewer.

Iraq tries to pacify terrorised businessmen

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Iraqi government is trying to reassure Iraqi traders in Jordan that there would be no repetition of the recent execution of about 40 businessmen for profiteering, Iraqi sources said Sunday.

"We have been getting messages that the executions were a 'one-time' event and that the government does not intend to institutionalise capital punishment for businessmen who it suspects of profiteering," said one source.

The "messages," which the sources described as formal as well as informal, were sent from Baghdad after Iraqi businessmen in Jordan suspended operations in fear of their lives following last month's executions. As a result, the daily flow of foodstuffs through the private sector into Iraq has come to an almost standstill.

Several Iraqi government officials visited Amman last week and contacted Iraqi businessmen in a bid to pacify them and urge them to resume their operations, the sources told the Jordan Times.

"The government appears to admit that the executions have been an over-reaction," said one source. "But very few are willing to listen to such arguments, particularly that they come from low-level officials."

Banking sources said many businessmen had frozen the opening of letter of credits for Iraq-bound imports. "They are terrified," said a banking official. "Nobody wants to be even seen associated with sending goods to Iraq."

Iraqi sources argue that there was no rationale behind the executions.

"The executions were unjustified since almost none of those executed could be accused of profiteering," said a former Iraqi banking official who now handles documentation for Iraq-bound imports through Jordan.

He cited as an example the retail price of sugar and rice in the open market in Iraq. He said it costs about \$305 to \$315 per tonne of sugar landed at Aqaba and about \$325 to \$340 by the time it reaches the Zarqa Free Zone, where the wholesale price is between \$360 and \$390 per tonne depending upon availability.

"The net cost for one tonne of sugar by the time it reaches Baghdad will be between \$380 and \$410," he explained. "The retail price of sugar in the Baghdad market is around the equivalent of 55 cents to 60 cents per kilo — representing a profit of about 17 cents to 22 cents shared between the wholesaler and retailer."

"Is that profiteering?" he asked. "Prices may be higher outside Baghdad, but then how

could Baghdad merchants be held accountable for the deeds of traders elsewhere?"

According to the former banking official, Iraqi retailers as well as wholesalers consider their prices in dollar terms. "It means that prices in Iraqi dinar terms could fluctuate based on the free market exchange rate of the dollar," he explained. "The government does not seem to appreciate that either."

Sugar, rice, milk powder and a dozen other items subsidised by the government are available at around less than one-tenth the open market prices, but the rationed quantities are only enough to meet about 40 per cent needs of an average family.

"The rations are not simply enough and every family has to turn to the open market to meet the rest of its needs; that is if the family can afford to buy," said an Iraqi student living in Amman.

Iraqis arriving here from Baghdad said shortages have not yet turned acute in the market, but that it is only a matter of days or weeks before the available stocks are depleted.

The executions have not affected the flow of goods from Turkey into Iraq since the goods are distributed in rebel-controlled northern Iraq, where the government arm does not reach. There was no information how Iran and Syria-based exporters to Iraq were looking at the situation.



Petra — from a different angle.

A regional view by camera

By Ica Wabbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Aptly named "Past and Present," Siham El-Mufti's photograph exhibition takes the viewer through time and space from life lost in history to contemporary time.

From the Egypt of the Pharaohs and the Petra of the Nabateans, one is taken to the less grandiose and the glamorous, the more practical and the rushed atmosphere of today.

A group of Egyptian black and white photos pay a great deal of attention to detail. Close-ups show the photographer was taken in by the artistic mastery of the old pyramid builders. Statues, hieroglyphics, columns, in the group off antique representations, are perfectly preserved.

In photos that captured more contemporary snapshots of life, horse-pulled carriages on wide avenues, shaded on either side by palm trees, are, to today's eyes, as old as the Sphinx and as equally engrossing to watch.

As fishermen's marina, nothing as glamorous as a nautical sports club, evokes images of a hard life, in permanent conflict with a hostile nature. Old boats, masts piercing the horizon's dim light, are waiting for the dawn to come and for the tanned brave men to sail, once again, in search for the

daily staple of fish.

Egypt's artery, the Nile can be seen in a dormant, lazy posture, green with red patches, barely flowing, too wide to rush or maybe too tired to do so.

In other instances, masterpieces of Arab architecture are present in old mosques. The pointed arches, the slim minarets, the domes, speak of the golden days of Arab civilisation, evoke Andalusia and past glory.

The desert group is gripping in its desolation. Ochre-coloured sand is pervasive; the feeling though is not one of hostile nature but of respect for this powerful part of the earth that man dares not confront and which constantly reminds him of his humble stature.

One photo especially draws the eye: That of a lone tree, almost dried up. Few upper branches are green on the seared trunk, proving a desire to survive, a symbol of the perennial nature that does not want to perish.

Another image is equally appealing to the philosophical nature: The presence of the railway in the middle of the desert. It is a sign of civilisation in a place God created and has forgotten.

Rocky, eroded, schist mountains, barren and dark complete the desert group. There is no sign of life, unlike the Syrian photos where the human presence is felt in one way or another.

Life is represented either by the mechanical part of it — cars, motorbikes, bicycles — or by the man himself — a man going about his work, two children, street-wise, contemplating life in a doorway.

Old, half ruined, arched doorways, antique, improvised storeys supported by crooked wooden beams, unplastered walls, electric cables scarring their already decayed look, make up the Syrian photos.

The Petra photos, a gathering of superbly immortalised landscape, has three particularly interesting images. Taken through fish-eye lenses, the three are taken from the bottom of a cavern, giving a sense of dizziness, of imponderable suspension in time and place.

Nature in some of its tiny, delicate details — flowers, sunsets, moon in an ink — dark night — complete the exhibition which is going on till August 16. Providing a refreshing outlook at life, the photos are worth seeing. Prices are steep though.

Ms. El-Mufti, a student at Exeter University, in the United Kingdom, is on her way to obtaining a BA degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies. She has been in Jordan for a year now, studying Arabic, and will be leaving for England soon to continue her studies.

ESCWA session on population

AMMAN (Petra) — The Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA) Monday hosts a two day meeting for the preparatory committee of the Arab Population Conference, which will be held here from April 4-8, according to a press release issued by the Amman-based ESCWA office. ESCWA executive secretary Tayseer Abdul Jaber will open the two day meeting, which will discuss population issues such as growth, policies and programmes. The meeting will also discuss environment and population, distribution of population, immigration, family planning and women in development.

Student sport champs can enrol in university

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan announced Sunday that students excelling in sports can apply to enrol in the university's sports faculties. The announcement, made by the university's sports activities department, said the department will accept applications from Tawjihi students until Aug. 12.

The department said applicants should either be member of a national team that represented Jordan in an Olympic, regional or Arab championship or played with a national team at least one match abroad.

Those who play for the Jordanian armed forces team, the Kingdom's school teams or one of the teams that occupied one of the first three places in official annual league championships can apply on this basis, the department said.

It added that students who also won one of the first three places in an individual championship organised by the various sports leagues in Jordan or who played for a military or school team that occupied the first place in one of the Kingdom's championship, can also apply.

The department said sports excellence certificates should be issued by the concerned leagues and accredited by the Youth Care Corporation.

Protesters demand indictment reversal

(Continued from page 1)

cluded tribal leaders dressed in traditional kuffiyahs and white thoubes.

Parliament last week indicted Mr. Hawamdeh on charges of misuse of public funds in a 1987 contract to build Al Jafri-Azraq highway at a cost of \$35 million. The House failed to muster the needed two-thirds majority to indict Mr. Rifai and former Finance Minister Hanna Odeh on similar charges.

The Investigations Committee of the House had recommended the indictment of the three former officials in the first such case in the history of Jordan.

"We demand the trial of all Hawamdeh's colleagues who served with him in that cabinet and we demand the trial of all officials involved in other corruption cases," the protesters said in a petition sent to King Hussein. "Tafleeh is not responsible for the Kingdom's \$12 billion debt," they said.

"We are against blaming corruption on one person while letting many others get away with it," said one of the demonstrators, Khaled Al Oran. "Mr. Hawamdeh is being punished for serving his country," he said.

The Jordanian press was also castigated by demonstrators for "curbing the freedom of expression" and for bias in informing the public of all aspects of the case. The press was also attacked for rejecting newspaper advertisement pledging support by people of Tafleeh for Mr. Hawamdeh.

"Parliament was not fair to Mr. Hawamdeh," said Jumaa Jaradeen, one leader of the protest. "We all know that other corrupt officials were acquitted."

Mr. Jaradeen spoke to reporters at Parliament's parking lot, where at least 2000 anti-riot police lined up at the entrance of the domed white building to block protesters from forcing their way in.

"Down with this Parliament," chanted the crowd who waved posters of King Hussein, Jordanian flags and banners which read: "The enemies of the people are their deputies."

Another banner plastered on one of the buses read: "The annulment of Parliament is a public demand."

The demonstrators drove from Tafleeh in 20 mini buses and cars to voice their protests to Parliament and King Hussein.

Hawamdeh family members in Jerash also drove to Amman to take part in the protest march, but the information could not be independently confirmed.

Some of the protesters' representatives met with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, who received from them a letter addressed to King Hussein and another one to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

"The demonstrators were wrong. Their slogans do not represent the public opinion in Jordan," Mr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times.

"Jordan is a democratic country that believes in pluralism in political activities and opinions. But dialogue is the base," he said.

Mr. Lawzi said he called on representatives of the demonstrators to exercise self-restraint, calm and rely on dialogue for expressing their concerns.

The Senate speaker said the demonstrators were "regrettably wrong in attacking the House, which acts within its constitutional authority." He said their slogans are rejected by all Jordanians.

On Wednesday and Thursday last week, noisy, but peaceful demonstrations took place in Tafleeh and Karak.

Sunday's protesters tried to head for the Royal Palace, but were blocked by policemen, who formed parallel lines on main streets leading to the palace.

For several hours, traffic on the Second, Third and Fourth Circles as well as main roads leading to the Interior Ministry were jammed, forcing helpless drivers to wait in the sweltering heat of August until the rallies headed back to their hometowns.

Policemen showed remarkable tolerance to provocations. Some enthusiastic and young demonstrators cursed police officers and

Settlers

(Continued from page 1)

land-for-peace deal to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Kiryat Arba, which houses about 5,500 Jews, is one of the more militant of the more than 140 settlements Israel has built in the occupied territories.

The settlers have vowed to resist Mr. Rabin's plans to sharply limit further settlement construction. Israel Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer announced the cuts shortly after Mr. Rabin's left-wing cabinet took office on July 13.

A freeze was put on plans for more than 5,500 planned housing units in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but construction underway on more than 10,000 units was allowed to continue.

Top Shiite leader laid to rest

(Continued from page 1)

Shiite dissidents, held memorial services throughout the country on Sunday.

According to Tehran Radio, it told Iraq that it wanted to send a delegation to pay its respects to Ayatollah Khoei's family and visit his grave.

Ayatollah Khoei's doctors said last month he was recovering well from his heart operation but still had other ailments. Four of Iraq's top surgeons treated him.

A Reuters correspondent who visited his Baghdad hospital in July found the white-bearded clergyman frail but alert.

"Tell the faithful to pray for me. I pray to God to grant them success," the ayatollah, who was hard of hearing, said to his son Mohammad Taqi in Farsi after being told people throughout the world were worried about his health.

Ayatollah Khoei was cared for by Mohammad Taqi, 34, and three of his sisters. Three other sons and two daughters live outside Iraq.

U.N. team

(Continued from page 1)

bearing paint splashes daubed by opponents of the U.N. presence in Iraq, headed away from Baghdad's government centre.

Inspectors checked carefully under their vehicles in the hotel car park before loading them with equipment.

As he left, Mr. Smidovich, the first Russian to head a U.N. team in Iraq, said he expected no problems but refused to say if he would take up the Iraqi challenge and try to search a ministry.

Official newspapers made no mention of the U.N. inspectors on Sunday but focused on a speech by President Saddam Hussein on Saturday in which he said Iraq would triumph over its enemies.

'Germ weapons'

Iraq has had biological weapons in its arsenal for nearly a decade and has been developing various strains of botulism, anthrax and salmonella for use in war, a British newspaper says.

Sunday's Observer quoted an Iraqi scientist living in exile in Iran as saying Iraq had tested biological weapons in the early 1980s, allowing it several years to perfect the technology before the Gulf war.

"I think it was developed as an artillery shell by 1983," the microbiologist was quoted as saying. "There were many strains, botulism, salmonella and anthrax. Friends told me they had found a way to make anthrax even more toxic. I know they experimented on sheep."

He said the aim of his own research at Baghdad University had been to develop a toxin to paralyse the heart and lungs.

The Observer said the scientist's disclosures were supported by other Iraqi exiles and anecdotal evidence such as reports of a bomb that killed all the sheep in one Iraqi town.

The newspaper said the revelations had shocked Western weapons experts and heightened fears that Iraq had managed to conceal the extent of its weapons programme from United Nations inspectors.

The Mafia's target list

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Just three hours after the (July 19) killing of Judge Paolo Borsellino, an anonymous caller telephoned the Italian news agency ANSA and made an ominous threat: "Now it's Orlando's turn." The police have every reason to take the call seriously. Leoluca Orlando, the outspoken former mayor of Palermo and head of a political group dedicated to thwarting the Mafia, is one of the crime syndicate's sworn enemies.

For years, Mr. Orlando has learned to live with an entourage of bodyguards and to take precautions about where he goes and what he does. But since the end of June this energetic campaigner has had to change his lifestyle radically. A series of threats backed up by intelligence reports that police say come from "the highest sources" all point to the fact that Mr. Orlando's life is in grave danger. It was June 27 when Mr. Orlando first heard there was a definite plan to kill him.

"That day in Palermo I had been taking part in a march to commemorate Giovanni Falcone (the Sicilian magistrate murdered May 23)," he said. That evening, I found the chief of police Vito Plantone waiting for me. With a very serious expression on his face, he told me: 'We are very worried about your safety. News has reached us from Rome that there is a plan afoot to assassinate you.'"

Mr. Orlando has many enemies. A former Christian Democrat, he left Italy's largest political party three years ago, accusing it of corruption. He set up his own group, called La Rete — The Network — standing on a platform of honesty and, specifically, of tackling the Mafia. In April, at Italy's general elections, Mr. Orlando was elected to the national parliament and his fledgling party made an impressive showing, especially in his home town of Palermo.

Mr. Orlando argues that the Mafia is inextricably linked with Italy's political establishment. He says so loud and clear, a brave but dangerous act. "The Mafia is not just made up of (crime) bosses who flee into the mountains when there is danger," he said. "The Mafia is a system of power, a mixture of criminality and political power. It could never have become as strong as it has if it had not had the support of the political institutions."

It is this straightforward line on political collusion that has earned him the death sentence, says Mr. Orlando. "If they do kill me, it won't just have been the Mafia," he said. Since the first warning at the end of June, there have been others, even more alarming. In the first days of July, a stolen car, its headlights glaring and doors wide open, was left outside his Palermo apartment, a clear mes-

sage that the former mayor's enemies are on to him and can strike when they want, he says.

Mr. Orlando has had to give up his rented apartment in Rome and move into a spartan police barracks with his wife and children, just as Falcone did in the months before he died. Mr. Orlando's armed escort has been stepped up to four cars and a minimum of five men who guard him night and day. The Interior Ministry has put a helicopter and even a speedboat at his disposal so he can move more safely. He describes his life as that of a "rabbit, paralysed by the headlights of a car." Mr. Orlando has had to give up virtually all his social life and many of his public engagements, including visiting a youth camp held recently in Sicily and dedicated to the theme of fighting the Mafia.

Every day, his escort changes their charge's route to work, the colour, type and number plate of the vehicles they use, even the personal code by which Orlando is known to the security forces — a precaution against interception of security arrangements by a possible "mole" inside the police force.

Instead of making appointments, as he once did, Mr. Orlando now decides at the last minute where he will go, and now he will get there. "For example, not so long ago I bought an air ticket for Palermo," he said. "But once I got to Fiumicino (Rome airport), I changed my flight and at the last minute I went to Trapani instead."

Another likely Mafia target is former magistrate Giuseppe Ayala, who buried his two best friends in the past two months. At Giovanni Falcone's funeral on May 25, he helped carry the coffin into the church, acting as pall-bearer alongside Falcone's other greatest friend, Paolo Borsellino. On July 24, it was Borsellino's coffin he helped carry into the church.

Mr. Ayala was one of the first on the scene of the massive bomb explosion which killed Borsellino. His own apartment is just a few blocks away. Now, some of his most treasured possessions are snapshots, of a trip to Egypt which shows himself, Falcone and Falcone's wife Francesca — also killed in the attack on her husband — and another which shows Mr. Ayala, Falcone and Borsellino, dressed in T-shirts and smiling broadly during a rare moment of relaxation on a business trip to Rio de Janeiro.

Mr. Ayala was public prosecutor during the mass trial against 475 suspected mafiosi which started in 1986. He worked closely with Falcone and Borsellino for 10 years and became inseparable



Leoluca Orlando — a prime target for assassination (World News Link photo)

from both. Now, as one of the last of the original anti-Mafia figure to remain alive, Mr. Ayala has no illusions about the danger to his own life. There have been threats in the past and more recently. Mr. Ayala has left his job as magistrate to enter politics for the small but influential Republican Party which, like Mr. Orlando's La Rete, calls for a strong line against the Mafia. But even though he is no longer a law official, he remains a risk to the Mafia, for his encyclopedic knowledge on the subject and his determination to avenge his dead friends.

Mr. Ayala is dangerous because, like Mr. Orlando, he says what he thinks and doesn't care whom he offends. He says new anti-Mafia measures unveiled last week by the government are too weak. "They are not enough," he said. "We need to change the political system because you can't beat the Mafia just by bringing in special laws."

Popular with the Italian peo-

ple, especially the young, Mr. Ayala was the only political figure able to restore calm during the funeral of Borsellino's five bodyguards. Outside the church, there were banners demanding he be made interior minister. His name has also been put forward for the job of heading the Superprocura, a new office which will be exclusively devoted to stamping out organised crime.

If Mr. Ayala gets the job, the dangers he already faces will soar dramatically. Both Falcone and, after his death, Borsellino, were tipped to fill the new post.

Mr. Ayala, a tall slim man and — like his two dead friends, Sicilian born and bred — tries to be philosophical about the risks he runs. "For some time now, I've come to the conclusion that it's useless to have a large escort with several cars," he said. "In fact, I travel alone with just one armor-plated car and two bodyguards" — World News Link.

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Cuban boxers wind up strong showing



BARCELONA (AP) — The United States and Germany won six gold medals each, while Cuba won four of the day's six boxing finals.

Cuba has four more men fighting for gold Sunday, the games' final day.

The Americans did it Saturday in track, basketball, tennis and boxing.

The Germans in track and field, canoeing, kayaking and men's field hockey.

It was just an average night for basketball's "dream team" 117 points and another blowout victory.

Another dream show came on the track, as the United States smashed two world records — one of them 24 years old — and

gave Carl Lewis his eighth Olympic gold medal.

On the tennis court, it was more like a five-hour nightmare for Switzerland's Marc Rosset, until he finally prevailed over home favorite Jordi Arrese for the Olympic men's singles title.

Rosset's gold Saturday was his nation's first at a summer Olympics since 1980.

With six boxing and four other gold medals remaining to be decided Sunday, the United Team of former Soviet athletes led the medals standings with 109, including 45 gold. The United States, with few medal chances remaining, had 105 and 37.

Germany had moved well ahead of China in the battle for third-78 and 30 to 54 and 16.

Host Spain, with victories Saturday in soccer, 3-2 over Poland, and the men's 1,500-meter run, had 13 golds. Three nations had 11 each — South Korea, Hungary and Cuba.

The team of top American professional basketball players beat Croatia 117-85 in the gold-medal game. But it was the closest of their eight games here,

in which they averaged 117.3 points. The average victory margin was 43.8.

Equally impressive was the victory margin in the men's 1,600-meter relay — about 40 metres for the quartet of Andrew Valmon, Quincy Watts, Michael Johnson and Steve Lewis.

Their time of 2 minutes, 55.74 seconds broke a world record of 2:56.16 set in 1968 and tied in 1988, both times by Americans.

The real battle was for the silver medal, with Cuba edging Britain 2:59.51 to 2:59.73.

Watts already hand gold from the men's 400-meter race.

In the 400-meter relay, anchor runner Lewis lengthened the Americans' lead from about one stride to six meters.

The quartet, also including 200-meter gold medalist Mike Marsh, Leroy Burrell and Dennis Mitchell, finished in 37.40 seconds, breaking the world mark of 37.50 set by a U.S. squad at last year's World Championships.

Nigeria finished second in 37.98 and Cuba third in 38.00. "When you have a 'dream team' in front of you, it's easy,"

said Lewis, who earlier won gold in the long jump.

"After the worst month of my life competitively, I could never imagine the Olympics ending with two gold medals and a world record. It's incredible," he said, referring to his failure to qualify for the U.S. team in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. A sinus infection had slowed him during the American trials in June.

Rosset, suffering from the heat and the taunts of the crowd, said he persevered even though "a couple of times, even in the first two sets, I was very close to defaulting. I wanted to stop, go in the locker room, take a shower, be quiet and drink a coke."

He found one shortcut: Serving 33 aces in his 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 8-6 triumph. En route to the final, the unseeded Rosset had beaten four seeds.

Top ranked Jim Courier, Wayne Ferreira, Emilio Sanchez and Goran Ivanisevic.

In the women's track relays, Evelyn Ashford led the Americans to victory in the 400, but the United Team beat the Americans in the 1,600.

Gwen Torrence, the 200-meter gold medalist, passed Irina Privanova of the United Team on the final leg and the Americans won by .05 seconds in 42.11.

Torrence then joined in the 1,600 relay, where the pattern was reversed. The United Team's Olga Bryzina passed American Rochelle Stevens on the final straight and her quartet won by .72 seconds in 3:20.20.

Germany's two track and field winners were Heike Henkel in the women's high jump and Dieter Dammann, who sprinted past the leaders in the last 60 metres in the men's 5,000.

Spain's Fermin Cacho also used a strong finishing kick to win the men's 1,500 metres.

But Spain had to settle for another tennis silver in the women's doubles. Americans Mary Joe Fernandez and Gigi Fernandez (no relation) beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez.

Germany won three of Saturday's six canoe and kayak races. Australia, Bulgaria and Hungary won the others.

Germany beat Australia 2-1 for the men's field hockey gold.

In team handball, the United Team beat Sweden 22-20 for the men's gold and South Korea downed Norway 28-21 for the women's.

The United Team's Alexandra Timoshenko won the gold in all-around individual rhythmic gymnastics.

Brazil's men won their country's first Olympic gold in volleyball, defeating the Netherlands in three straight sets after marching undefeated into the final.

Brazilian fans waving green-and-yellow national flags mobbed the team on the court and celebrated in the stands after the final point.

It was the second Olympic silver medal for Dutch coach Arie Selinger, who led U.S. women to second place at the 1984 games. The Dutch were in their first final.

The United States settled for the bronze medal with a come-from-behind 3-1 victory over Cuba. Brazil ended the U.S. team's shot at a third consecutive gold medal in Friday's semifinals.

But Cuba won three of its four boxing finals Sunday, adding to its four gold medals Saturday for a total of seven. Its previous best was six gold medals at the 1980 Olympics in Moscow that were boycotted by the United States, West Germany and Japan.

Equestrian

Germany's Ludger Beerbaum rode Classic Touch to two faultless rides to win the gold medal in individual jumping Sunday with a perfect score of 0.0.

Piet Reymakers of the Netherlands, riding Ratina Z, had two clear rounds, but did not finish the second in the allowed time and received a 25 penalty, still good enough for silver.

Norman Delo Joio of the United States got the bronze aboard his 11-year-old gelding Irish. Delo Joio was faultless over the first course in the morning, and sent only one bar tumbling in the afternoon competition, for a score of 4.75 on the day.

The morning round was run in a steady rain that made the course a sea of brown mud.

"The rain tends to disrupt your concentration," Beerbaum said. "The water on the ground tends to make the horses jump when they shouldn't."

For riders wearing glasses, the problems were compounded by fogging lenses and slipping spectacles.

Tennis winners battle talent, crowds and royal inspiration

BARCELONA (AP) — Swiss Marc Rosset and Americans Gigi and Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States had to overcome Spanish opponents, a hostile hometown crowd, hot weather and royal inspiration to win their tennis gold.

The unseeded Rosset won the men's singles title by outlasting a hostile crowd and Barcelona native Spaniard Jordi Arrese 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 8-6 Saturday.

On the same day, the Fernandez duo (no relation) overcame the same hometown crowd and a royal reception to beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez, also Barcelona natives, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2.

"A couple of times, even in the first two sets, I was very close to defaulting," Rosset said. "I wanted to stop, go in the locker room, take a shower, be quiet and drink a coke."

"It was a long, tough match," he said. "There's no way you can stop in a big tournament like this."

A crowd of about 7,000 jeered Rosset and rooted wildly for Arrese. When the Barcelona native began his comeback in the third set, fans responded with singing, applause and chants of "Jor-Di, Jor-Di."

"The crowd was very tough for me sometimes," Rosset said. "When they say, 'you're going to lose, you're going to lose,' it's tough on your concentration."

Leading 4-2 in the final set, Rosset did double-fault on break point. The crowd responded with a gleeful standing ovation.

Arrese won the next game to tie the set at 4, and both players held serve until the final game, when Rosset put away a forehand volley to reach deuce. Rosset won the next two, long hand points.

In the fourth set, with Rosset wilting in the sun, clouds rolled in and the temperature quickly fell.

"I couldn't move," Rosset said. "I was not feeling so well. Then in the fifth set, the weather was not so warm."

The Swiss boomed serves and took a 6-5 lead in the final set by serving three consecutive aces, for a final total of 33.

In the women's doubles, Americans Fernandez and Fernandez faced the crowd and royal inspiration when beating Spaniards Sanchez Vicario and Martinez.

Inspired by the entrance of Spain's King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia early in the second set, the top-seeded Spaniards won six straight games to take a 1-0 lead in the final set. But after Sanchez Vicario held serve to even it at 2-2, the U.S. team won four consecutive games to win the match.

The Barcelona duo took a 3-1 lead in the first set. But the second-seeded Americans broke Martinez at love to make it 3-3 and won the set on an overhead by Gigi Fernandez that broke Sanchez in the 12th game.

It was the second medal for Mary Joe, who shared the bronze with Sanchez Vicario in singles.

No 1992-style dream team next time, pleads U.S. team chief

BARCELONA (R) — U.S. Olympic team chief Leroy Walker Sunday criticized the selection process for the gold medal dream team of basketball stars and said he did not want a repeat at the Atlanta Games.

Walker said the choice of NBA professionals had left no room for Olympic hopefuls from American college basketball.

"I don't want every youngster who has a dream of making the Olympic team to feel that he can't do this unless he makes the NBA," Walker, who is tipped to become the next president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said.

"I don't want it (the dream team) in Atlanta under the same set of circumstances. I don't want to disenfranchise every collegiate."

The dream team, whose stars include Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Larry Bird, were invited to play in the Olympics by a selection committee of the professional National Basketball Association (NBA) and the USA Basketball Federation.

They strolled to gold when they

overwhelmed Croatia 117-85 in Saturday's final.

Walker said he wanted U.S. Olympic basketball players selected by try-out so that talented collegiates and NBA players would "have some opportunity to either make it or not make it."

"I don't believe that there aren't some college players who could fit into this process and we could still have our best team," Walker said.

Boris Stankovic, head of FIBA, the International Basketball Federation which let professionals into the Olympic tournament, said the move would only benefit the sport.

"Our dream was to have the best basketball players in the world in the tournament. The interest is enormous," he said.

Walker, a retired chancellor of the predominantly black North Carolina Central University, was the 1976 U.S. men's Olympic athletics coach.

He ran into controversy earlier at the games when he criticized the dream team for staying at a

five-star hotel and not experiencing the Olympic spirit of the Athletes' Village.

On Sunday he repeated that he was against professional teams in any sport. "It's not the NBA, it's a societal issue," Walker said.

"When I say I'm against unequal treatment I'm against it because I lived through it and I know what it means," he said, recalling discrimination against blacks before civil rights.

Ben Johnson involved in scuffle at Olympic Village

BARCELONA (R) — Ben Johnson, thrown out of the Seoul Olympics for doping, scuffled with a security guard at the Athletes' Village in Barcelona Sunday, the Canadian team said.

Team spokesman William Hersh said Johnson and the guard were embroiled in a brief push and shove contest when the sprinter tried to enter the village without the identity pass all accredited athletes must show.

"There wasn't a big scuffle. He just wanted to get in," Hersh said when asked about the incident.

It was a matter of the guard saying "hey, you can't come in" and then doing this," he said, demonstrating a push to the shoulder.

Hersh said a scuffle followed, but the matter was resolved when Johnson was issued with a village day pass. "He only went in for a short time and then left," he added.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

PICTURE PERFECT

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 8 6 5 4
♥ A Q
♦ A
♣ Q 9 6 3

WEST EAST
♠ A J ♠ K 7 3
♥ 2 ♥ 10 9 7 5
♦ 10 8 7 6 5 2 3 9 4
♣ 3 8 7 2 ♣ A 5 4

SOUTH
♠ 9 2
♥ K J 8 6 4 3
♦ K Q 3
♣ K 10

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

The opening lead of a good declarer and enterprising defenders is what makes bridge such an exciting game. Witness this hand.

On this sequence, South's heart bid promised a six-card suit. With a known eight-card major fit and the values for game, North wasted no time in getting to the optimum contract.

East won the club opening lead with the ace and made the obvious

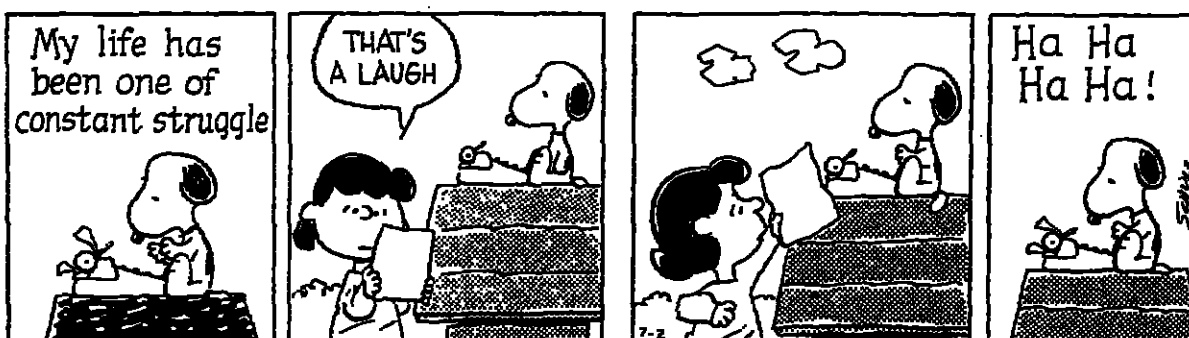
shift to a low spade. West took the ace and continued with the jack. The spotlight was now on declarer.

Barring an evil trump break, it would seem South must make the rest of the tricks. However, declarer did not relish East winning this trick, for a third spade from that side could devastate the North-South trump holding, so declarer made the fine play of a low spade from dummy—if West retained the lead, declarer could probably claim the rest.

East was now in the cabdriver seat. Obviously, if declarer had any side-suit losers, covering the jack of spades with the queen would have set up the spade suit as a source of disaster. The only reason for not doing so had to be that declarer had no other losers, so the setting trick had to come from the trump suit.

Once the problem was recognized, the solution became obvious. East overtook the jack of spades with the king and returned a spade. Had the game been played with glass cards, declarer would have known to ruff low. Since that was not the case, declarer made the normal play of ruffing with the jack, and East's ten of trumps was promoted to the setting trick.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY AUGUST 10, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Stick to the formal and conventional today and tonight otherwise you could get involved in some situation where a considerable amount of deception by self or others is a large factor.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have some brilliant ideas for putting your special... aptitudes across and you will be able to get some experts to give you a hand in so doing.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you want to change and improve at your residence can be done with a flare and so that it can last for a considerable period of time to come.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can find the right word, phrase or sentence to get your messages across to those with whom you want to make a good impression so be articulate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Expand your conscious mind to see yourself having a greater abundance and to spare than you have had for sometime as you now can obtain such.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your ideas are excellent, your nature magnanimous, your thoughts clever so utilize all of these to your fullest advantage today, tonight.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about the various intimate aims that most compel you to action and you have a good chance

to make big advances towards gaining them for sometime to come.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about what you can do to contact as many friends and acquaintances as possible and enjoy mutual pleasures and a sense of humor with them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A day when you are able to so handle outside conditions that you can impress conventional and unconventional bigwigs to give you their backing.

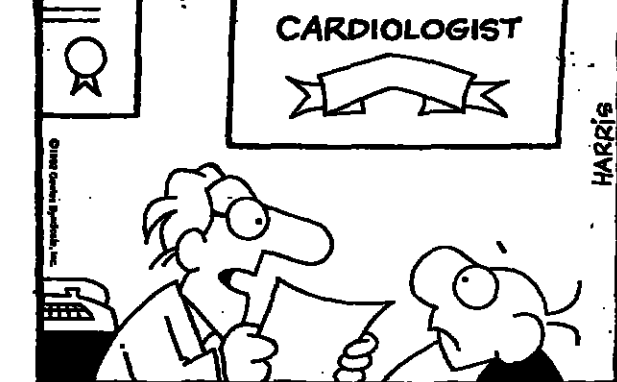
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be more open-minded to new opportunities off all kinds that are now awaiting your acceptance and you can greatly aid to your development.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think about what you can do to have considerable more business success by some unusual circumstances you can combine with your routine activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) All kinds of interesting opportunities through other persons come into the open so that you will be able to make rapid progress to harmony.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You now have the opportunity to complete whatever arrangements already begun or to start new ways to make your surroundings very comfortable and efficient.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIFUD

VAHNE

SUCLEM

TICEXE

WHY THE CONTORTIONIST COMBED HIS HAIR WITH HIS TOES.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

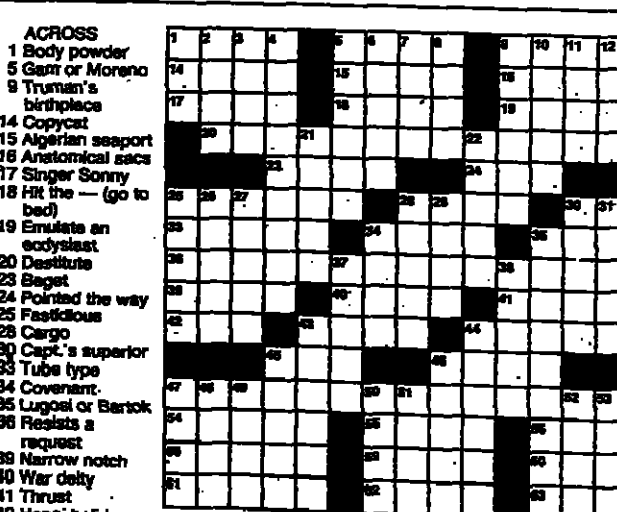
Answer here: TO MAKE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUISE CLOUT SINFUL HANDLE

Answer: The cure for love at first sight—SECOND SIGHT

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Witte



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Body powder 2. Gator or Moreno 3. Truman's birthplace 4. Copycat 5. Algerian seaport 6. Anatomical area 7. Singer Sonny 8. Hit the — (go to bed) 9. Emulate an ecologist 10. Sagittarius 11. Pointed the way 12. Fastidious 13. Cargo 14. Cap's superior 15. Tube type 16. Covenant 17. Lugosi or Bantock 18. Reels a request 19. Narrow notch 20. War deity 21. Threat 22. Hanoi holiday 23. State positively 24. Concur 25. Tavern report 26. Sad news report 27. Toronto port 28. Past pleasantly 29. Plume 30. Item upturned in Wisconsin? 31. Type of beer or cider 32. Green Mountain Boys leader 33. "A" should have a good memory (Columbus) 34. Great Lake 35. Hits hard 36. Nailed bridge designer 37. Printing term 38. Prayer beads 39. Fit to be tied 40. Diplomatic need 41. Egyptian cross 42. Struck angrily 43. Old stage work 44. Indigo source 45. Tears 46. TNT part 47. Pleats greatly 48. Archaic verb 49. Indim 50. Beam 51. Name in publishing 52. Interweaving 53. Straighten 54. Jackson 55. "Gator" 56. Gasconade 57. Kind of orange 58. Bovine name 59. E.T. and Ali 60. Shrikes from 61. Plus 62. Mountain nymph 63. Commander of David's army 64. Qualified 65. Scram 66. Lammings' kin 67. Charles Lamb 68. Traditional 69. Knowledge 70. Sully 71. Kicker's aid

Premier says Russia must help itself

MOSCOW (R) — Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar has said Russia must fight hard to avert economic collapse and could not rely entirely on the West for salvation.

"We have to understand that any form of credit is only a prop for our domestic policy. If our internal policy is irresponsible, these props won't help us," Gaidar said in a television interview broadcast on Saturday.

Gaidar, under increasing pressure from conservatives to rein in his financial reforms and shore up

large state enterprises, said the impetus for reform must come from within.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) last week approved a first tranche \$1-billion loan for Russia and the World Bank (WB) freed \$600 million as part of a huge aid effort.

Gaidar, who has steered Russia's reforms since prices were first freed to rise in January, said the IMF loan would be used primarily to build the country's foreign currency reserves.

"This money will make it possible for us to speak more calmly with our creditors. Now, at last, we are coming out of a situation when our great country lived without currency reserves."

"Potentially (these loans) are a great contribution to the stabilization of the rouble," he added.

Russia has assured the West it plans to cut spending to meet creditor's and donors' demands after the IMF approved a loan on Wednesday.

Gaidar reinforced this message. "They (the funds) won't be squandered, in any case. I won't allow this while I am in office," he told Russian Television.

Russia needs to keep its budget deficit under five per cent of Gross National Product (GNP) if it is to receive further cash from the IMF.

Extra spending plans ordered by parliament would inflate the deficit to 10 per cent, but Economics Minister Andrei Nekhayev has pledged to enforce the five per cent limit.

Russia, in transition after decades of Communism to a free-market economy, launched its reform programme in January, freeing prices and promising to sell off big state-owned firms.

But Gaidar and President Boris Yeltsin are now under pressure from conservatives, backed by state enterprise director, to spare large factories from privatisation. Yeltsin could be tempted to compromise for fear of social tensions that could follow widespread unemployment.

Production has already fallen 14 per cent this year.

Nekhayev told Trud Newspaper on Thursday he expected the economy to stabilise by the middle of next year. Then the recovery would start.

Ethiopia's economy declines

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Ravaged by the civil war that ended last year, Ethiopia's economy shrunk by 1.5 per cent in each of the past two years in one of the world's poorest countries, a parliament committee says.

In a report published Friday, the Economic and Social Committee of the Council of Representatives said the economy declined by 1.5 per cent each year and a 3 per cent population growth "reduced appreciably" the estimated \$170 annual per capita income and figures show a worsening standard of living.

The report was presented to parliament during Thursday's debate on the Horn of Africa nation's 1992-1993 budget.

Ethiopia's financial year begins in July, but legislators approved the budget late.

Nearly 50 per cent of the 5.9 billion (\$2.7 billion) budget for capital expenditure and most of it expected from foreign sources.

The government has already obtained \$1.3 billion from international lending institutions and Western nations to rebuild the economy.

The 17-year-old civil war, which ended in May 1991, with the ouster of President Mengistu Haile Mariam, left an empty treasury, and most schools, roads, bridges, clinics and factories destroyed.

The report gave no forecast, but officials say a shortage of foreign exchange has hindered imports of raw materials, spare parts and machinery this year.

Like corrosive acid works on metal, debt eats away at U.S. economy

WASHINGTON (R) — Debt eats slowly into America's fibre, sapping the standard of living and draining away money for new investments, much the way a corrosive acid works on metal.

Not since 1969 has a U.S. government balanced its spending and its income. In the 23 years since, a flood of debt has been created.

It now totals \$3,906,487,000, 000. That is \$3.9 trillion.

It is beginning to stir anger among those who could someday be asked to pay up. Signs are emerging of an organised effort to pressure policy-makers into stanching the flow of red ink.

"We're asking our political leadership to either do what it takes to fix the critical problems facing this country or get out of public office and let somebody else try," declared 29-year-old Rob Nelson last year.

Co-founder of a group called "Lead ... or Leave," Nelson is urging Americans aged 18 to 30 to make an issue out of debt that candidates for public office in the November 3 presidential elections will not be able to avoid.

At a Washington rally and news conference last Wednesday,

the youth group that included student political leaders from around the country, was joined by former Democratic presidential candidate Paul Tsongas and retiring Republican senator Warren Rudman of New Hampshire.

Debt soared during the 12 years since 1980 in which Republicans have controlled the White House — eight of them with George Bush as Vice President Ronald Reagan and in the past four years of Bush's own presidency.

Total accumulated debt at the start of the Reagan administration in 1981 was about \$709 billion and it is headed for about \$4 trillion — more than quadruple — by the end of this year.

The total debt is the accumulation of all the annual shortfalls between government spending and its income from taxes. In the current financial year alone, ending September 30, the annual deficit is forecast by the White House to hit a record \$333.5 billion.

Democratic challenger Bill Clinton says he would reduce the deficit but puts special emphasis on job creation with national unemployment at 7.7 per cent in

July. Jobs generally cost money and might not be compatible with cutting deficit spending.

Neither presidential candidate wants to talk about raising taxes, the government's primary revenue source, though Clinton has said he would do so for about the top two per cent of richest Americans.

Congress also is to blame for the rising tide of red ink. Proposals for controlling so-called "entitlement" programmes — like Medicaid, Medicare and Federal Retirement — that contain automatic spending increases not subject to government review generally die a swift death on Capitol Hill.

Political lobby groups swiftly get into the army when proposals for curbing such spending increases come up for discussion and none has survived a Congressional vote.

But even White House Budget Director Richard Darman warns the entitlement programmes "have taken over the budget" and thwart effort to manage it.

In the past 12 years, spending for entitlement programmes has risen nearly 40 per cent while discretionary spending on other

domestic programmes, which require congressional approval, has fallen about five per cent, the House Appropriations Committee estimates.

One organisation that is urging cuts on the debt, The National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers, warns time is drawing short for some action.

The Organisation of State Fiscal Officers calculates that this year every man, woman and child in the United States is paying about \$1,200 interest to carry the total debt, four times what they were paying in 1980. And that is with dramatically lower interest rates than prevailed 10 years ago.

"If the recent lower rates produce annual interest burdens of \$1,200 a person, what might then be if rates climbed back to their 1981 highs?" Asks Robert Luth, comptroller of Nebraska and chairman of the Association's Task Force on Improving Financial Management.

In September 1981, the Federal Reserve board's trend-setting discount rate that affects all other interest rates was at 18 per cent. Now it is at 3 per cent.

Hundreds of thousands flood China stock boom town

SHENZHEN, China (R) — Clutching wads of cash and dreaming of overnight riches, hundreds of thousands of would-be capitalists from across China engulfed this southern boom town on Sunday for a slim chance of playing its new stock market.

Exasperated police flailed away electric cattle prods, bamboo canes and leather belts to try to control the huge sweat-soaked crowds which had gathered over two days outside 302 Shenzhen banks and brokerages, witnesses said.

Shortly before 8 a.m. (2400 GMT Saturday), when five million stock market lottery tickets went on sale, waits rose outside Shenzhen's Bank of China branch as the crush of bodies churned against a barricade of steel desks blocking the main doors.

Only one in 10 of the 100 Yuan (\$18) coupons going on sale on Sunday will be selected by stock market officials, giving the lucky holders the chance to buy stock later this year.

Police said one person died in a crush in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone's Dongmen District on Saturday night and rumours circulated that a woman had been crushed to death elsewhere on the same day.

Scores of investors overcome by the 35 degrees Celsius heat lay in heaps at every distribution site. Hawkers were making small fortunes selling bottles of water and soda that people hurled to friends and relatives still in line.

Local hospitals said many people had sought treatment for heat exhaustion but serious injuries were few.

"If this is what you have to do to get rich in China, then I don't want to get rich," said Jonathan Chen, 24, a businessman from nearby Canton lured to Shenzhen by the stock fever.

"You could call this issuing stock with Chinese characteristics," Chen said of the chaos, punning on patriarch Deng Xiaoping's call for socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Deng's slogan made possible the bold experiments with capitalism in Shenzhen and elsewhere.

One Shenzhen broker said: "Nobody wanted this lining-up method but stock market officials prevailed. I hope we don't have to go through this again next year."

The two-day operation starting on Sunday is to sell application forms for "A" shares, reserved for Chinese citizens, to be issued in the 1992-93 financial year.

Nationwide stock market fever has been fuelled by the meteoric rise in shares issued last year in Shenzhen and another infant bourse in Shanghai. Investors have seen returns of several hundred per cent.

Despite the slim chances of winning the lottery, official media said hundreds of thousands of would-be investors had travelled from across China, eager to pay several weeks' wages for the coupons.

"People who survived the sweltering heat and perilous lines and bought coupons said they would do it again."

"Of course it was worthwhile," said Yu Jibin, 25, a Guangdong Province utility worker bathed in sweat who tried in vain to keep his 10 coupons dry.

"I bought them for everyone in my family. How could I see all these people getting rich like this and not try to get in on it too?"

Applicants had to present a personal identity card for each coupon purchased, with a limit of 10. Many people formed village syndicates to buy up as many coupons as they could manage.

Thousands of more cautious Chinese gawked from beyond police lines fashioned from ropes, trees and even bicycles. Many said they feared that nepotism and corruption further trimmed the chances of actually getting any stock.

"You've got a one-in-10 chance of buying anything but the chance itself is very expensive," said a bystander named Zhang who scoffed at the get-rich-quick mentality. "Even then, how many people are using back door connections?"

Hundreds of officers from the People's Armed Police, a branch of the army, seemed to relish the chance to eject people from the lines for minor slights, witnesses said.

"This is totally unfair," shouted a deeply tanned peasant from Zhejiang Province, bare-chested and shoeless, who was hurled from the line minutes before the doors opened.

"I waited all night for nothing. Look at me. Nothing but sweat."

Tough measures to improve Greek economy

ATHENS (AP) — Economy Minister Stefanos Manos who took on the finance portfolio Friday, announced a tough package of measures designed to increase revenues and bring the country in line with its European Community (EC) partners.

Within an hour of his additional appointment following a cabinet reshuffle, Manos announced sharp tax increases on bank deposits and fuel and the abolition of Greece's 36 per cent value added tax (VAT).

"Parliament last week approved the Maastricht Treaty. We said yes to Europe ... The ticket for Maastricht must be paid now," Manos told reporters.

The ticket, he said, was an economic convergence plan designed to bring the country's economy in line with its 11 EC partners. The new measures will set the stage for the plan, to be submitted for parliamentary approval in October.

They include higher taxes on bank deposits from 10 to 15 per cent effective September and a 33 per cent rise in fuel prices as of Saturday.

The new measures also call for an increase on raw materials and industrial equipment from the minimum 8 per cent VAT to the maximum 18 per cent. The top rate of 36 per cent on items such as electronic consumer goods, tobacco and alcohol was abolished and replaced by 18 per

cent. An 8 per cent VAT will be added to water bills for the first time.

Manos said the price increases were expected to bring in revenue of about 650 billion drachmas (\$3.42 billion) in 1992 and help plug an expected 200 billion drachmas (\$1.05 billion) shortfall in budget revenues this year.

Manos said the price increases would result in a short-term rise in inflation, which should be about 15 per cent by the end of the year. The government's target was 12 per cent for 1992.

Inflation was under 14 per cent in July, down from 18 per cent last year.

The government has been implementing a harsh austerity programme for the past two years by streamlining the public sector and selling off debt-ridden state enterprises in an effort to cut public spending.

"Our most important goal is to reduce the public debt. The interest rate on the debt already eats up 40 per cent of the state's revenues," Manos said.

Greece must cut its public sector debt from 140 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) last year to the Maastricht target of 60 per cent by 1997.

"I am very optimistic. This year we will have a primary surplus making up 1.5 per cent of GDP and expect that to go up to 7 per cent of GDP in 1993," Manos said.

Inflationary crunch feared in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — "Turkey is far from winning its battle with inflation, though sharply lower prices are disguising underlying trends, businessmen and economists say."

"Yes, 'vegetarian' inflation was marvellous in the first half, but the other figures are not appetising," the daily Sabah Daily commented on statements by State Minister Tansu Ciller that her anti-inflation policies were bearing fruit.

Many businessmen and economists share Sabah's scepticism, pointing to the seasonal impact of cheaper fruit and vegetables. They fear an inflationary crunch in the last four months.

"The inflation rate will begin to rise after August when the impact

of July price hikes will be seen," said Atalay Coskunoglu, head of the Istanbul Chamber of Trade.

Annual consumer price inflation was unchanged at 65.8 per cent in July. Monthly inflation nearly tripled to 1.3 per cent from 0.5 per cent in June, but was the same as in July 1991.

Memduh Hacıoglu, chairman of Istanbul's Chamber of Industry urged Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's nine-month-old coalition government to maintain a policy of low lira devaluation and high interest rates to curb inflation.

He expected inflation to exceed 50 per cent by the end of the year. Demirel has promised to slash it to 42 per cent.

Financial Markets

Weekly Foreign Exchange Market Summary (August 3-August 7, 1992)

Exchange rates fluctuated within narrow margins throughout last week, as trading remained subdued and overly quiet. The dollar ended the week slightly lower against European currencies, but marginally higher against the yen.

The dollar was barely changed Monday as trading volume declined in what was described by market participants as a "typical quiet summer market." The release of a batch of U.S. economic reports during the week failed to inspire traders who remained persistently side-lined ahead of the release of the U.S. July employment report at the end of the week.

Technical adjustments Wednesday, on the other hand, pushed the U.S. unit to its highest levels of the week against European currencies. The dollar, thus, ended at 1.4815 marks and 1.9075 dollars to the pound sterling.

Teh dollar slid Thursday and again Friday, ending the week at its lowest levels of the week.

Friday's decline materialised on the release of a disappointing July U.S. employment report. The economic data reported a rise in non-farm payrolls by 198,000 in July, and by 123,000 after adjusting for seasonal factors. Unemployment, in turn, had eased to 7.7% from 7.8%.

While the figures were actually in line with expectations, they nevertheless, confirmed the notion that the rate of economic recovery in the U.S. was still modest, and that an interest rate cut was still a possibility. Profit taking on long dollar positions hence ensued, despite a pro-dollar intervention by the government.

Observers were, however, sceptical about the purpose behind the intervention, explaining that it was bound to fail in such a thin market that lacked effective participation. Their scepticism was enforced by the Bundesbank president's earlier comments, in which he implied that there was no target dollar/mark level, and that the previous central banks intervention July 20, was only aimed at countering a disorderly market.

As for next week, the majority of market participants expect the dollar to continue its down trend. A breach of 1.46 marks resistance level was not ruled out.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	31/7/92	7/8/92	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.9225	1.9095	-0.10%
Deutsche Mark	1.4745	1.4668	-0.52%
Swiss Franc	1.3160	1.3140	-0.15%
French Franc	4.9800	4.9585	-0.43%
Japanese Yen	127.10	127.50	(0.30)

USD Per STG

Currency	31/7/92	7/8/92	Percent Change
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.68	3.25
Sterling Pound	10.06	10.31	10.00
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.75	9.62
Swiss Franc	8.38	8.25	8.25
French Franc	10.09	10.31	9.93
Japanese Yen	4.06	3.81	4.06

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

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Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

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Swiss Franc	8.38	8.25	8.25
French Franc	10.09	10.31	9.93
Japanese Yen	4.06	3.81	4.06

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Currency	31/7/92	7/8/92	Percent Change
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.68	3.25
Sterling Pound	10.06	10.31	10.00
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.75	9.62
Swiss Franc	8.38	8.25	8.25
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Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

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Karadzic offers to close camps ; heavy fighting in north Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The leader of Bosnia's Serbs Saturday offered to close all Serb detention camps in an apparent attempt to allay international condemnation and the possibility of military intervention.

But another Bosnian Serb official threatened "kamikaze missions" against targets in Western Europe if the international community intervened.

Sarajevo was relatively quiet most of the day Saturday, but shelling resumed in the evening. Heavy fighting also flared along Bosnia's northern front, particularly along the Sava River border with Croatia.

Serbs have made considerable gains in northern Bosnia in recent months after Croatia withdrew its forces to the border in the wake of Western criticism over its involvement in the Bosnian war.

Outgunned Muslim and Croat forces have been trying, so far unsuccessfully, to retake the mainly Muslim areas occupied by the Serbs.

President George Bush said Saturday that the international community has made no decision to use force to stop the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina or protect relief flights into Sarajevo.

"We're seeking authority to do whatever it takes to get the relief supplies in," Mr. Bush said of efforts made by diplomats around the world. "We've got to stop the killing some way and I'm not sure that can be done with more arms."

The president also denied there have been disagreements with U.S. allies on the possible use of

military force to stop the suffering.

In the wake of world indignation over revelations in newspapers and television this week of Muslim prisoners allegedly being beaten to death, raped and starved, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said he was ready to immediately hand over control of all detention camps to the Red Cross.

He said he had ordered the immediate release of all sick and elderly prisoners and called for an "all-for-all" exchange of prisoners with Muslim-led forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Karadzic said he was ready to close down all prisons under his control within three weeks, "if the other sides agree to do the same."

But Hajrudin Somun, aide to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, dismissed the offer as a smokescreen to cover up for further Serb abuses in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Of course he has no intention of releasing anyone," Mr. Somun said. "If he is serious, then let him release some of the people from the camps today and lift the siege of Gorazde," in eastern Bosnia that has been under Serb siege for months.

Another Serb leader, Aleksa Buba, foreign minister of the self-proclaimed "Serbian republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina," told a news conference in Belgrade that volunteers outside Yugoslavia "have offered to participate in kamikaze missions against European targets in the event of West-

ern aggression" against Serbs in Bosnia.

"They would be prepared to attack nuclear powerplants throughout Europe," Mr. Buba said.

Some Western leaders have called for military intervention in Bosnia to stop the fighting, but President Bush and others have counseled caution on outside intervention.

In Sarajevo, relief flights, suspended Tuesday because of heavy fighting, resumed. After a mostly quiet day, shelling of the old town resumed and heavy fighting was reported around Visoko to the north West, where government forces have been trying to break the Serb siege of the city.

Eight Ukrainian peacekeepers were injured in a mortar attack Friday evening. Sarajevo Radio reported 30 dead across Bosnia over the past 24 hours.

In northern Bosnia, street battles raged in Bosanska Gradiska on the Croatian border, Croatian Radio reported from the town.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency reported that Croatian forces had moved into northern Bosnia near Bosanska Gradiska early Saturday.

Croatian defence officials said the Croatian town of Slavonki Brod, to the east came under heavy artillery and rocket fire from Serb-held positions in Bosnia.

Two people were killed and about 20 wounded, officials said.

Fighting was also reported around Doboj to the south and Bihać, to the west. Sarajevo Radio also reported fighting

around Gorazde and in Mostar in western Herzegovina.

Serbs opposed to Bosnia's independence have captured about two-thirds of Bosnia's territory since Muslims and Croats voted for independence on Feb. 29.

The war has killed at least 8,000 people, and up to 50,000 according to some estimates. Tens of thousands more have been wounded and more than a million Bosnians have fled their homes. Some refugees have been forced into camps as part of campaigns to create ethnically homogenous areas.

Most abuses have been blamed on Serbs, but Serb leaders say Muslims and Croats also have camps.

The U.N. Security Council was considering backing the humanitarian effort with military muscle. The 15-member body was expected to hold consultations this weekend on the U.S. proposal.

It was unlikely the Council could pass a resolution before the middle of next week. Diplomats said Friday Council members disputed over how much power U.N. troops should have.

World leaders contend the nature of Bosnia's war — an ethnically based, guerrilla-style conflict — make it foolhardy for them to commit troops to end fighting, as popular opinion isn't for it and more deaths would result.

Meanwhile more than 2,500 Bosnians uprooted by ethnic warfare arrived in Germany Sunday, the last batch of Balkan refugees to be allowed in for the time being.

Azeris retake Armenian enclave

MOSCOW (AP) — Azerbaijani forces have recaptured two villages that have been taken by Armenian fighters and continued an offensive in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, pushing back the Armenian defenders.

The Azerbaijani Defence Ministry said in a report carried by the Baku-based Turan News Agency that Azerbaijani units took control over the village of Muradara, near the Armenian border and northwest of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenians captured the village after mounting a cross-border offensive into Azerbaijan on Thursday night.

On Saturday afternoon, Azerbaijani forces captured the nearby Armenian-populated enclave village of Artsvashen. On Friday, Armenian units managed to establish a land corridor linking Armenia with Artsvashen.

Armenia considers the village and its surroundings its own territory within Azerbaijan, and the Armenian Interior Ministry said that "Azerbaijani army invaded the Armenian territory ... occupying about 46 square kilometers (18.4 square miles)."

The Azerbaijani Defence Ministry confirmed that the village was taken and said in a statement carried by Turan that it served as an Armenian attack base. The Azerbaijani statement said the Armenians lost several dozen fighters killed as well as four tanks and two armoured personnel carriers, and retreated back across the border.

According to Armenian officials, up to 18 Armenians were killed and several dozen were wounded in Saturday's fighting in the area. The Armenians also have died in Azerbaijani shelling of Armenian border regions, especially the town of Goris.

Armenians reports, meanwhile, said the Azerbaijanis also continued to attack in the area of Mardakert in Nagorno-Karabakh, following an unsuccessful offensive which began Thursday. The fresh assault involved about 18 tanks and some aircraft, the reports said.

The Moscow-based Pro-Armenia News Agency said Armenian forces were pushed back from the hills overlooking the regional centre of Mardakert and that fighting raged close to two key villages in the area.

Nagorno-Karabakh parliament spokesman Gegam Bagdasaryan said Armenians had damaged an Azerbaijani MiG-25RB aircraft. He said the Azerbaijanis have lost at least 100 people killed during the offensive.

In the overnight Azerbaijani shelling of the town of Martuni and the village of Berdashen in Nagorno-Karabakh, three Armenians were killed and 12 people, including women and children, were wounded, Mr. Bagdasaryan said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan urges support for PKO

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, at a ceremony marking Nagasaki's devastation by an atomic bomb in 1945, sought support Sunday for his plans to send Japanese troops abroad for the first time since World War II. "We now have the qualifications to make a contribution to world peace," the prime minister said, assuring a crowd of 25,000 in the rebuilt city that Japan would never again be an aggressor. "I am determined that Japan will join other countries in order to create a peaceful and more prosperous world for the 21st century," said Mr. Miyazawa, clad in mourning black, in an address televised nationwide. Five days after a U.S. plane dropped an atomic bomb on the southern port of Nagasaki on Aug. 9, Japan surrendered. It later renounced involvement in all overseas military endeavours. Now, almost five decades later, Mr. Miyazawa is preparing to send soldiers to Cambodia as United Nations peacekeepers, a move that has stirred protests at home and prompted some fears in Asia about Japan's military ambitions. The bill allowing troops to serve abroad, the peacekeeping operation (PKO) bill, was passed in mid-June after 20 months of bitter debate.

Man held in Russia to visit U.S.

PETRICH, Ukraine (R) — Michael Semko shared the fate of dozens of Americans held by Stalin's security police in the heat of World War II. Now he wants to return to the country of his birth, which he left 70 years ago and feared he would never see again, to visit his parents' grave. Mr. Semko is the first apparent success for a Russian government inquiry into Americans, largely of Slav origin, held in the former Soviet Union by Communist rulers. His name was on a list of 25 people who archives show could still be alive, many after serving long prison camp sentences. The 73-year-old labourer, who lives in the Ukrainian village of Petrichi, said: "I would like to see my parents' grave, but I would like to go back only with the whole family." Despite speaking only Polish, Mr. Semko is known in the village as "Mike." "We all know Mike," said 13-year-old Yuri. "He's an American. He stayed here because he got married." Asked what English he knew, Mr. Semko grinned and rattled off: "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten."

Senate takes whack at SDI programme

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Star Wars missile defence programme is running into serious trouble in the Senate for the first time, and some lawmakers say it may portend even deeper cuts for U.S. President George Bush's 1993 Pentagon budget. In a 49-43 vote late Friday, senators refused to kill an amendment calling for \$1 billion in additional cuts in the Strategic Defence Initiative or SDI, the formal name for Star Wars. The action came as the Senate worked on a \$275 billion defence budget bill for the fiscal year that begins on Oct. 1. Critics noted it was the first time the full Senate had voted to support a cut in SDI. It would put the programme's funding for the coming fiscal year at \$3.3 billion, far below the \$5.4 billion Mr. Bush had sought.

Dutch move toward scrapping draft

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — After sweetening military conscription by allowing troops to uniform and wear ponytails, the Dutch are now considering the U.S. approach: Scrap the draft and build a leaner, more professional force. With a flashy ad campaign touting a new air corps, the government is trying to give the military a more glamorous and career-oriented image to attract recruits wanting to be all they can be. And there are calls to boost salaries. Despite opposition from commanders who say only the draft can fill the ranks, a government-commissioned report is expected to recommend next month that conscription be abolished. The draft has infused the military with Dutch society's liberalism and its wariness of military power.

Rioting follows Canada rock concert

MONTREAL (R) — A cancelled heavy metal rock music concert sparked outbreaks of arson, looting and vandalism by disappointed fans, the Canadian press reported. More than 200 helmeted police swinging clubs and firing tear gas chased rioters through streets around Montreal's Olympic Stadium after the concert by Guns 'N' Roses and Metallica was called off. Angry spectators started small fires in the stadium and wrecked seats before looting a stadium store selling souvenirs. Some uprooted a street light and rammed it through a plate glass door of the stadium and others ran into the souvenir store snatching baseball caps and t-shirts. A number of people burned Guns 'N' Roses T-shirts, witnesses said. There were also reports of stores on nearby streets being looted. "They're breaking everything," said police constable Claude Forget. The sell-out concert had been interrupted earlier by a minor explosion near the stage while Metallica were performing. Lead singer James Hetfield was taken to hospital and treated for second-degree burns. The extent of his injuries and cause of the explosion was not known.

COLUMN

Russia reports one-third more crime than 1991

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's crime rate jumped more than 30 per cent in the first months of this year, and organised crime is also on the rise, a top lawmaker said. "Ordinary criminals are forming an ever-closer alliance with criminals in the economic sphere and high-ranking officials at state institutions," said Aslambek Aslakhonov, chairman of the Russian Parliamentary Committee for Legality, Law and Order and Anti-Crime Activities. His comments were published by the daily newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta. "Organised crime is developing," he added. "All this is taking place against the background of the striking inefficiency of laws." Mr. Aslakhonov said lawmakers were preparing a series of draft crime-fighting laws, particularly focusing on white-collar crime and corruption, that will be considered in the fall. "We must not linger," he said. "The underworld is taking advantage of blank spots in our legislation." Mr. Aslakhonov said that there were one-third more crimes committed in the first four months of 1992 than were committed in the same period last year. He added that authorities broke up 943 criminal gangs last year, and that 3,000 such groups continue to operate in Russia. Many of the gangs have ties to groups in other regions or countries, he said.

Japan leaders all going on a summer holiday

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, hoping to set a precedent in workaholic Japan, says he's taking an unusually lengthy 20-day holiday this summer. Not to be outdone, ruling and opposition party leaders have unveiled their own plans for long vacations. "Everybody's going on vacation," said one ruling party official. "The bosses usually take holidays but nothing as long as what we're seeing this year." Ordinary Japanese are taking an average four to five days off this year during the annual mid-summer O-Bon Festival, falling in the second week of August.

Mount Athos monks cancel ban on visitors

ATHENS (R) — The all-male monastic community of Mount Athos cancelled a ban on visitors after their tax row with the Greek government was settled. The monks, who ban women, last month threatened to close their doors to thousands of Greek and foreign male visitors from Monday if the state taxed its property. They said the ban was called off after the Finance Ministry promised them that a new tax law would exclude their community. The Greek constitution grants the 20 monasteries on the northern Greek peninsula the right to self-government. Women have not been allowed to set foot on Mount Athos since 1060.

Belfast boy gives mother ticking bomb

BELFAST (R) — A small boy in Northern Ireland presented his mother with a gift — a bomb. Three-year-old Ryan Congrove found the device, a black box, close to his home in Protestant West Belfast and proudly took it home to his mother Karen. But she became suspicious because it was ticking, carried the box outside and called the police. An army bomb disposal expert who defused the device described it as an undercar bootie-trap bomb containing high explosives.

Pigheaded commuters put on right track

HONG KONG (R) — Pigs have been enlisted in Hong Kong's war against pushing and shoving on train platforms. A new television commercial shows a herd of snorting pigs running riot on underground platforms, a graphic representation of the nightmarish jostling and queue-storming during rush hour. "Human beings are more intelligent than pigs and this is to remind them of the benefits of queuing up and allowing passengers to alight first before boarding the trains," a spokeswoman for the Mass Transit Railway Corporation said. The advertisement, jointly produced by the underground railway company and the Kowloon-Canton Railway, will run for three weeks, but only on Chinese language channels, she said.

Russia slices up armour under treaty

WUENSODORF, Germany (AP) — Under the watch of American and other NATO monitors, Russian troops Saturday began destroying more than 2,000 armoured vehicles to fulfill a treaty reducing non-nuclear arms in Europe.

Russia became the second country to start dismantling heavy weapons under the landmark treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe. Germany began the same work last Monday.

The treaty, signed in 1990, requires NATO and the former Warsaw Pact countries to dismantle nearly 40,000 tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery pieces and warplanes in the next 40 months.

The treaty provides for elaborate inspection procedures so the 29 signing countries can check what weaponry other countries have and what they destroy.

Nine NATO observers, including five U.S. soldiers and others from Belgium, Canada, Italy and Britain, moved into the massive Red Army base at Wuensdorf, about 15 miles south of Berlin, to monitor an assembly line-like process the Russians created to dismantle armoured personnel carriers and render them permanently inoperable.

Yeltsin aides accused of Soviet-style politics

MOSCOW (AP) — A leading reform lawyer accused Boris Yeltsin's new Security Council of acquiring sweeping powers and operating like the former shadowy Soviet Communist politburo, a newspaper reported Saturday.

"This club possesses an exceptionally wide sphere of interests and there is no effective form of control on its work," Sergei Shakhrai told the Kommolskaya Pravda newspaper.

Mr. Yeltsin authorised the formation of his Security Council in early June by issuing a "decree," which did not need parliament's approval. The council has a mandate to set policy regarding Russia's defence, security and economy.

Its session are closed and decisions can be implemented by presidential decree, making the five-member council more than just an advisory body. It can in effect work like a parallel government uncensored by a parliament that is often hostile to Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Shakhrai, Mr. Yeltsin's top legal adviser, said the group acts as a kind of "politburo," a reference to the supreme body of the former Soviet Communist Party, which held final power and made all major decisions on running the country.

"If the August coup plotters had had such a law on the Security Council and such a body really working, they wouldn't have had to use unconstitutional methods."

However, Mr. Shakhrai said he did not think the members of the Security Council represented potential new putsch leaders since they already have the power to make policy and the means to execute it.

Members of the council include Mr. Yeltsin and Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, veteran defence manager Yuri Skokov, who is secretary of the council, Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, Defence Ministry Pavel Grachev and security chief Viktor Baranikov also attend.

Mr. Shakhrai warned that although the Security Council could help further the reforms, it could also be used for the "restoration of the previous feudalist kind of system."

At 36, Mr. Shakhrai is prominent among the new generation of young reformist politicians. He has warned of the danger of possible efforts by disgruntled nationalists and fascists to unseat Mr. Yeltsin.

The Nezavisimaya Gazeta daily was blunter in its assessment of the new body. "The powers of the Security Council are unlimited," it said last month, calling the council the "new leading and guiding force of our society." The phrase echoed a common Soviet-era slogan that referred to the role of the Communist Party.

Nezavisimaya Gazeta said the real goal of the council under Mr. Skokov's stewardship was to maintain Russia as a great military power active throughout the world.

Indian police kill top Sikh militant

AMRITSAR, India (R) — Indian police killed another top Sikh militant Sunday in another major blow to a separatist campaign that has cost thousands of lives.

Senior police officials said Sukhdev Singh, chief of the Babbar Khalsa International militant group, was shot dead near the industrial Punjab city of Ludhiana Sunday morning.

They said he was wanted in connection with some 1,000 killings.

Mr. Singh was the third leading Sikh militant killed by police in less than two weeks. Like the others, he was found after a tip-off.

Police said they knew Mr. Singh was due to drive down in Dehlon Road near Ludhiana Sunday and moved to intercept him. He and another Sikh in the car alongside him ignored an order to stop and police opened fire, they said.

Mr. Singh was killed instantly but the other fled into fields and escaped.

Republicans face tricky week of manifesto drafting

HOUSTON (R) — Republicans begin the difficult business of drafting a manifesto Monday, a week before the party's national convention that President George Bush is hoping will bounce him back into the running for reelection.

With Mr. Bush and U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle lagging in the polls behind Democrats Bill Clinton and Al Gore, Republican leaders hope a harmonious convention and a unified party will persuade voters to give their ticket a new look.

Yet the row over abortion and the role of conservative Pat Buchanan do not augur well for a tranquil convention.

While the Democrats support a woman's right to choose abortion, the current Republican platform, or party manifesto, backs a constitutional ban on the operation.

Mr. Bush has pledged that the abortion plank will not be rewritten in Houston.

The National Republican Coalition For Choice and Republicans For Choice, two groups that support keeping abortions legal and claim to represent most Republicans, have organised a full week of protests in Houston to pressure the party to ease its stand.

Opposing them will be the anti-abortion Republican National Coalition for Life and the militant Operation Rescue.

These groups argue that the damage done to the party by waffling on abortion would be far greater than any benefit from broadening its appeal to abortion rights advocates.

Elder Republican statesman Barry Goldwater, the party's 1964 presidential nominee last week that Mr. Bush would sink the party if he stayed with the

current policy.

"My prophecy is the convention will go down in a shambles, as will the election," the retired five-term Arizona senator said in a letter made public last week.

"If the president believes that the introduction of his position before the platform committee at the convention will result in nothing but smooth going, he's as wrong as wrong can be," Gen. Goldwater said.

A second group of Republicans, who favour keeping abortion legal, vowed last week to seek a convention floor fight if the platform committee leaves the abortion plank intact.

The group also suggested a novel compromise — that the platform say nothing on abortion whatever.

U.S. Senator John Seymour, of California, one of the group's organisers, said the suggestion was meant to unify the party.

He acknowledged that when he informed U.S. Senator Don Nickles of Oklahoma, the platform committee chairman, of the group's plans, Gen. Nickles gestured as if being hung by his necktie.

"I don't know whether he was talking about his neck or mine," Gen. Seymour said.

Another potential threat to Republican harmony is Mr. Buchanan.

The former political commentator embarrassed Mr. Bush earlier this year by picking up a quarter to a third of the vote in several primaries although he was making his first run for public office and faced an incumbent from his own party.

Mr. Buchanan was given a spot on the convention programme despite the dismay of party insiders still angry because they said his primary campaign gave the

Democrats a road-map of Mr. Bush's vulnerabilities months in advance of the autumn campaign.

He is to address the convention on opening night Aug. 17, apparently having agreed to endorse Mr. Bush.

But Mr. Buchanan's campaign office announced last week that he nonetheless would press for a 16-point alternative platform.

Despite the prospect of discomfort in Houston, Mr. Bush said on Saturday he was "absolutely convinced" he will win reelection in November "because I'm going to outwork" Clinton.

Meanwhile, Mr. Clinton's hectic three-day bus tour through America's heartland may not have matched the success of his inaugural road trip, but aides said it achieved the goal of getting the candidate's economic message across.

"This trip was more focused on the economic plan, on taking that message of putting people first, creating jobs, improving education," said Spokesman Dee Dee Myers.

Mr. Clinton hammered away at what he called President George Bush's failed economic policies. At every stop he told the crowd: "The truth is that most Americans are working harder today for less money than they were making 10 years ago."

Meanwhile, the need to react to the cruelty of "ethnic cleansing" in former Yugoslav states has given President Bush a chance to take the stage as statesman, his foreign policy issues are playing a minor role in the U.S. presidential campaign.

"Foreign policy, for the first time in memory, is a very secondary issue," said Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, a member of the Senate-Foreign Relations Committee.

Issuing a detailed foreign policy blueprint for the candidates, drawn up by a bipartisan commission of experts, Winston Lord, former president of the Council on Foreign Relations and ambassador to China, said he was "distressed" at the lack of foreign policy debate.

The loping economy and disturbing domestic social issues magnified by the Los Angeles riots provide the dominant focus of the campaign between Mr. Bush, 68, and Mr. Clinton, who turns 46 on Aug. 19.

The biggest foreign policy issue has been whether Mr. Bush is, as he repeatedly argues, better qualified, by experience and judgment, to preside over national security.

"The United States is the undisputed leader of the world," Mr. Bush said in a Georgia campaign speech. "And that did not happen by accident. It happened by leadership," he said, taking at least partial credit for the collapse of communism.

In Michigan, Mr. Bush referred indirectly to the Gulf war, saying "the American people have a right to know that the man who answered the phone when all international emergency breaks out in the night, 'last the experience, the seasoning, the guts to do the right thing'."

Mr. Clinton's foreign policy advisor, Anthony Lake, countered with an original argument. He said that at a time when the world has taken a historic turn with the collapse of the Soviet Union and its Communist power bloc, "experience is not necessarily the first qualification."

He indicated that Mr. Bush may be trapped by thinking of the past while Mr. Clinton would "promote foreign policies designed for the next decade."

Canadian premiers to hold unity talks

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's provincial leaders will hold crucial unity talks Monday which could bury a separatist threat and satisfy Quebec's demands for greater autonomy.

The 10 premiers, including Quebec's Robert Bourassa, will meet at Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's summer retreat to thrash out differences on how Canadians should be governed. Failure of the constitutional reform talks would threaten national unity as Quebecers prepare to vote on sovereignty in a referendum in October.

It could also undermine Mr. Mulroney's Conservative government, which was voted into office in 1984 with the support of Quebec and oil-rich Alberta, two provinces now at loggerheads over reform of Canada's Senate.

A reform package agreed by English-speaking Canada on July 7 after months of negotiations would entrench Quebec's status as a distinct society in the country's constitution.

But in return, western provinces led by Alberta want equal seats in an elected Senate to replace an appointed upper house, which is dominated by Ontario and Quebec, the most populous provinces with 17 of Canada's 27 million inhabitants.

"We cannot have Quebec join us now and unravel the agree-

ment," Alberta Premier Don Getty told a news conference. "I will refuse to be part of any agreement that does not have the principle of the triple-E in it," he added, referring to an equal, elected and effective Senate.

Conservative members of parliament from Alberta, who are vital to Mr. Mulroney's majority, warned that they could desert the government if it backs down on the proposed equal-seat Senate.

Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark, a former prime minister charged with resolving Canada's decade-old political impasse, admitted for the first time this week that the July 7 deal may not be workable.

In Quebec, Mr. Bourassa is under pressure from separatists and the youth wing of his party to reject the latest offers from English-speaking Canada and push ahead with the October referendum.

The reform package proposes a major shift of federal powers over mining, forestry, tourism, housing, culture, recreation and urban affairs from Ottawa to the provinces.

It also includes constitutional recognition of the right of Canada's 600,000 natives and Inuits (Eskimos) to govern themselves within five years.

Aboriginal self-government is widely rejected by Quebecers who fear that increasing native

resistance to hydroelectric dams will block energy exports to the United States, a mainstay of their depressed economy.

The leader of the separatist Parti Quebecois, Jacques Parizeau, Friday called for Quebec to withdraw from the talks and said only a vote on independence could pull Quebec out of economic stagnation.

"Quebecers want substantially more powers for Quebec, but what do we get? A restructuring of the Senate and the addition of a third level of government for aboriginal peoples," he told reporters.

Native leaders, who stand to lose substantial political gains they have made in the reform negotiations, fear Ottawa will give in to Quebec and sacrifice their interests.

The Assembly of First Nations, whose grand chief Ovide Mercredi called Mr. Bourassa an "Indian fighter" last week, plan to stage demonstrations at the talks.

The previous attempt to accommodate Quebec's demands, negotiated at the nearby Meech Lake, collapsed in 1990 due in part to opposition by native groups.

"Mulroney is more inclined to support Quebec than our people because his main concern is getting reelected," Chief Mercredi said.